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LD011502 [Editorial Report]

Israel

Disturbances—Two residents of the Tulkarm area were killed and another was seriously wounded when IDF soldiers fired to disperse demonstrators on the Tulkarm-Nabulus road 1 February, Jerusalem radio reported. Four other Arabs were wounded by IDF fire in the Hebron hills and in Janin. The radio also noted that a Jewish settler from Bet El was hospitalized in critical condition after a firebomb attack on his car the previous night.

The latest violence followed rioting 30 January during which five people were injured by fire from security forces in Nabulus and two were likewise wounded in the Gaza Strip, according to Jerusalem radio. "Dozens" of rioters were also beaten and several arrested in Gaza. Responding to ongoing disturbances in Nabulus, IDF troops entered the Nabulus Casbah during the night of 31 January and arrested "dozens" of people, IDF radio disclosed. Israeli military sources cited by Jerusalem radio viewed the continuing violence as an attempt by Palestinian activists to keep the disturbances in the headlines during Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's visit to Washington. Former Gaza Mayor Rashad al-Shawwa told the radio that people in the occupied territories had pinned hope on Mubarak's visit, but were "very disappointed" that the U.S. Administration made "no positive sign."

Shamir on Peace Process—Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir "insists" on the implementation of autonomy according to the 5-year time frame stipulated in the Camp David Accords, according to "senior sources" in Shamir's office cited by IDF radio 1 February. Shamir consequently "opposes" the new U.S. proposal to reduce the length of the interim settlement and to start negotiations on a permanent solution this year, the sources said. Nevertheless, in an interview with Jerusalem television the previous day, Shamir did not express opposition to the U.S. proposals to shorten the timetable for interim autonomy arrangements and he said Israel is "prepared to enter negotiations on this issue."

Among other reportage on Shamir's current position, YEDI'OT AHARONOT noted that the prime minister's media adviser has denied reports that Shamir has sent U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz a message indicating that he agrees to territorial compromise or withdrawal from the territories.

Peres Bribery Denial—Responding to U.S. media reports about planned payments to the Labor Party in return for a guarantee of Israeli noninterference with an Iraqi oil pipeline, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told IDF radio that "the entire report is totally unfounded." Both the main Israeli parties had agreed to the pipeline project and there was "no need to pay anybody off," he stressed. Peres' office likewise emphasized that Peres was never offered money or any valuables in connection with the affair, Jerusalem radio noted.

Syria's Relations With Iran, Iraq

At the end of a 31 January visit to Tehran for talks with Iranian leaders, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said the two countries held "identical" views on the importance of promoting dialogue between Iran and the Arab Gulf states, Damascus television reported. Al-Shar' said he had sensed an Iranian desire to remove tension from the Gulf and to render dialogue a success. During his visit, the Syrian envoy gave Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad dealing with the Gulf situation, the television noted. According to Tehran radio, Al-Shar' also responded to Iraqi criticism of Syrian efforts to mediate between Iran and the Gulf states, asserting that Syria was surprised to come under such criticism while it is trying to "build bridges" between Iran and other countries of the region.

For Iraq's part, INA viewed the Syrian minister's visit to Tehran as part of Syria's "plotting against Iraq and pan-Arab security." Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan likewise denounced Syria's diplomatic effort in the Gulf as "a dirty attempt to divide brothers," according to the agency. The renewed Iraqi hostility toward Syria was also reflected in a Voice of the Masses radio commentary which described the Al-Asad regime as "a deviationist gang that sponges on treasonous actions, takes bribes, and derives its strength from well-known international and local complications."

On the other hand, the UAE paper AL-ITTIHAD published a 30 January report claiming that the Iraqi and Syrian presidents have informed Jordan's King Husayn of their willingness to meet in an attempt to achieve a full reconciliation. The meeting is expected to take place in March, AL-ITTIHAD added.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi aircraft struck a "very large" maritime target 31 January, just hours after a raid on a large maritime target, according to an Iraqi military spokesman's statement carried by Voice of the Masses radio. Tehran radio cited shipping sources as saying that a Panamanian cargo ship was on fire and adrift in the Gulf following an Iraqi missile attack. Also in the Gulf, Iraqi forces drove off three Iranian gunboat attacks on Al-'Amiq port over the weekend, according to communiques broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio.

In ground action, the same Iraqi communiques reported 430 Iranians killed in northern sector clashes with the I Army Corps.

Jordan

Talks With PLO—A PLO delegation left Jordan 31 January following 3 days of talks with Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Amman radio reported, adding that the talks were held in an atmosphere of "frankness and responsibility." At a press conference before departing, PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani stated that the talks focused on recent developments in the occupied territories and efforts to "crystallize" an Arab stand, according to WAKH. Acknowledging that Jordanian-Palestinian relations "have not been good," Hurani indicated that the talks did not resolve all issues. He added, however, that the two sides "agreed to continue" the consultations.

In light of these meetings the seven-member Arab committee, formed at the Arab Foreign Ministers Conference in Tunis, will "soon" meet in Amman to draw up an "action plan" for serving the Palestinian cause, SAWT AL-SHA'B noted.

Husayn Tour—King Husayn arrived in Rome 31 January on the first leg of his European tour, Amman television reported. The king held a meeting with Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti in which the two discussed regional developments, current Arab issues, and efforts being made to advance the Middle East peace process. In an interview broadcast by the television station 29 January Husayn expressed not only "regret, pain, and anguish, but discouragement" over recent U.S. positions, adding that the United States has lost "very much of its credibility, if not all."

Mubarak Tour

Egyptian President Mubarak stated that he sensed "a great deal of understanding" on the part of the United States for his Middle East peace initiative in a 30 January statement to AL-ITTIHAD cited by MENA. Following his talks in Washington, Mubarak expressed his belief that the United States "will actively move" to consolidate the peace efforts. Mubarak flew to Paris 31 January for talks with French leaders, the agency said.

Saudi-Soviet Talks

Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal left Moscow 30 January after talks he characterized as "useful and positive," TASS reported. During his stay, the Saudi minister held talks with his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze on the Iran-Iraq war, implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598, the situation in the occupied territories, and current international issues, according to SPA. However, AL-ITTIHAD reported that the talks focused on the issue of resuming diplomatic relations between the two states, adding that the Saudi side invited Shevardnadze to visit Saudi Arabia to discuss the issue.

Lebanon

Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, head of Syrian intelligence in Lebanon, announced that the kidnapping of FRG national Ralf Schray is nearly resolved and that his release is just "a matter of time," Voice of Lebanon radio reported 31 January. Kan'an had earlier informed Hizballah leaders of the "harsh" consequences of failing to obey Syrian demands for Schray's release, the radio said, though Hizballah officials claimed that their party was not involved in the kidnapping.

In other developments on the hostages issue, Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Supreme Shi'ite Islamic Council, maintained that Terry Waite and the other foreign hostages in Lebanon are still alive, according to the Voice of Lebanon. Visiting Iranian official Kamal Kharrazi asserted that Iran is continuing efforts to secure the release of hostages, Beirut radio reported. Kharrazi, who heads Iran's War Information Headquarters and IRNA, visited southern Lebanon over the weekend, IRNA noted.

Sudan

Anya Nya II Denial—A 30 January Anya Nya II Higher Command statement carried by Omdurman radio termed reports of a unity pact between the group and the SPLM-SPLA a "deception." Acknowledging that a meeting between the two groups had taken place, the statement considered the contact "void and baseless," as the Anya Nya II leadership "had not delegated authority" for such a meeting.

Israeli-SPLA Contacts—An Israeli general recently visited battlefronts in the south of the country and delivered lectures to SPLA officers, SUNA reported, citing a Khartoum press report. According to AL-USBU', the general offered the sale of 100 Soviet-made tanks captured by the Israelis in Lebanon, as well as offering to mediate a deal between the SPLA and a "well-known U.S. company" for "heavy military equipment."

Libya

Protest, Denial Issued—The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison addressed a note of "strong protest" to the United States over a recent Voice of America broadcast expressing agreement with Egypt over the need to confront "the Libyan danger," JANA reported 31 January. The protest stressed that this stance reveals that a "hostile scheme" is being prepared between the United States and Egypt against Libya.

The same day JANA reported that a spokesman for the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison "denied" that Libya has "any link" with the arms cache recently discovered in Northern Ireland.

Diplomat's Death—A 29 January JANA report referred to the Libyan charge d'affaires recently killed in Nigeria as the victim of a "terrorist assassination" carried out by the "criminal clique in Ndjamena." An earlier AFP report of the killing indicated the diplomat was killed by "car thieves."

Al-Qadhdhafi Speech—In an address to students broadcast by Tripoli television 28 January, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi denounced the Muslim Brotherhood as agents "planted from abroad" in the Arab homeland in order to "destroy" pan-Arabism and the Arab nation. Asserting that the Muslim Brotherhood "harm Islam," Al-Qadhdhafi branded them "the worst of God's enemies" and "the scum of Arab society."

Afghanistan-Pakistan

Rebel Government—The seven-party rebel alliance issued a communique proclaiming its intention to establish a government "as soon as possible," which would assume power in Afghanistan "before Soviet troops withdraw," AFP reported. The proposed government would launch a three-pronged policy of creating peace, repatriating refugees, and beginning reconstruction. An alliance spokesman stated that the alliance executive council had agreed on the government's "basic structure" and would soon give it "practical shape."

Cordovez Talks—UN envoy Diego Cordovez held a "detailed discussion" with Pakistani President Ziaul Haq 28 January, Islamabad radio reported. However, Cordovez denied a report that he met with rebel leader Yunis Khalis while in Pakistan, according to KYODO. The UN official returned to Kabul 31 January where he met with Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil in preparation for the next round of Geneva talks, Kabul radio noted.

Soviet, Iranian Comments—The Soviet ambassador to Iran indicated support for an Iranian role in an Afghan settlement during a 30 January meeting with Majlis speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Tehran radio reported. The Soviet envoy stated that Iran's "active presence" in solving this issue would solve the problems of hundreds of thousands of Afghans. For Iran's part, Hashemi-Rafsanjani asserted that if the Soviets are ready to leave Afghanistan, Iran is "prepared to help you," so that the United States does not "dominate" it after the Soviet withdrawal.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraqi, Syrian Presidents 'Expected' To Meet

JN311745 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 30 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad have expressed to King Husayn their readiness to meet to proceed with achieving a comprehensive reconciliation between Iraq and Syria, including the recent differences which have emerged between them. The meeting is expected to take place at the beginning of March.

An informed source in the Royal Jordanian Court has told AL-ITTIHAD that King Husayn will visit Damascus at the end of February after he concludes his European tour, which will begin tomorrow, Sunday, and after he had postponed his scheduled visit to Syria last Thursday. The source added that the following days will feature intensive contacts among Amman, Baghdad, Damascus, and other Arab capitals to bring about the meeting between Presidents Saddam and Al-Asad.

Saudi Minister Welcomes Syrian Move in Gulf

JN310947 Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 30 Jan 88 p 10

[From the "Yesterday's News" column]

[Text] Damascus—Intensive consultations between Riyadh and Damascus continued on all issues of interest to the two fraternal countries and the situation in the area. Foremost among such issues, of course, is the Gulf war and related developments and contacts, particularly the Syrian contacts with Tehran, as well as the Gulf states and Saudi Arabia. Last Saturday Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' conveyed a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to King Fahd. In a statement to AL-MUSTAQBAL following the meeting, during which Foreign Minister Al-Shar' handed President Al-Asad's message to King Fahd, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said such visits and consultations between Syria and Saudi Arabia are continuing over all Arab issues on the basis of the Amman summit. He stated: "The custodian of the two Holy Mosques has exchanged several messages with President Hafiz al-Asad on these issues. The message conveyed by Brother Faruq al-Shar' was a reply message from President Al-Asad to King Fahd." He said there is nothing specific in the message that needs to be announced, for the message is a continuation of the coordination and consultation based on the Amman summit and the policy of the two countries with regard to continuing contacts between them.

In response to a question, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal refused to call current Syrian contacts mediation. He declared: "There is no mediation, but there are attempts by the Syrian brothers to calm the situation in the Gulf—and they announced this some time ago. They are making the effort, which we naturally welcome, as a step toward easing tension in the area. It is also in harmony with GCC resolutions." AL-MUSTAQBAL asked Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal if there was anything new in the message conveyed by Al-Shar'. Prince Sa'ud replied: No one expects every message to yield results, but messages are exchanged within the framework of continuing Syrian-Saudi coordination and consultations. We will know the results when matters in the Gulf calm down.

Commenting on the same issue, Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad expressed his appreciation for "Damascus' stands and efforts." He also said that there is no estrangement between the Gulf states and Tehran. He declared: There are relations between us and our embassies are continuing their work.

AL-MUSTAQBAL asked Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad: When will you call for the withdrawal of fleets and when will Kuwaiti oil tankers stop flying the U.S. flag? He replied: "First ask Iran to stop attacking ships in the Gulf."

Jordan's House Speaker on APU Resolutions

JN290841 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Arab parliamentarians have called for a unified pan-Arab strategy guaranteeing a strategic superiority to confront the Israeli danger and to force Israel to implement United Nations resolutions aimed at establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. The call was contained in a statement issued by the 18th session of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU] at the conclusion of its meetings in Tunis last night.

Mr 'Akif al-Fayiz, speaker of the lower house of Parliament and chairman of the Jordanian delegation to the APU session, said the Arab parliamentarians have also reiterated support for convening a UN-sponsored international Middle East peace conference. They also called for supporting the residents of the occupied territories and their uprising against the Israeli occupation. Arab parliamentarians have also decided to form a committee to contact European parliamentarians to urge them to pressure the United States to change its position at the Security Council on the Arab-Israeli conflict. They have also decided to form a legal committee to reveal the conditions of the occupied territories with the aim of declaring deportations of Palestinians null and void from the legal point of view, since such a measure dates back in time when Palestine was a British mandate in 1936. [sentence as heard]

Arab parliamentarians also voiced support for the Arab residents of the occupied Golan Heights and south Lebanon. They also called for implementation of resolutions adopted by the various Arab summits and voiced support for a recent Soviet proposal calling for an international peace conference on the Middle East. Arab

parliamentarians also voiced support for Iraq and called for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598 demanding a cease-fire in the Gulf war. The also voiced support for Gulf Arab states against Iranian threats.

Palestinian Affairs

'Differences' Over Sinyurah, Rahmah U.S. Visit

JN291315 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
29 Jan 88 pp 1, 15

[By Lamis Andoni from Tunis]

[Text] Official Palestinian sources have asserted that Hanna Sinyurah and Fayiz Abu Rahmah adhered both to the uprising's demands and to the Palestinian national consensus during their meeting with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz on 27 January. A number of Palestinian factions have vehemently criticized this meeting.

Through its contacts with various Palestinian circles, AL-RA'Y has learned that the differences over the Washington meeting revolve around two points. First, most of the Palestinian factions are convinced of the need to continue to boycott any meeting with U.S. officials in an effort to maintain the uprising. Second, according to the Palestinian factions, both Sinyurah and Abu Rahmah do not represent the uprising's inside leadership. However, other official Palestinian sources have asserted that Abu Rahmah and Sinyurah did not violate the uprising's demands or the Palestinian national line. According to these same sources, the two Palestinian personalities focused on three main issues during the 45-minute meeting. The first issue was the demand that international forces be formed to protect Palestinians from the arbitrary Israeli measures. Second, the formation of such forces should be the first step toward the convening of a UN-sponsored international conference with the participation of all the concerned parties headed by the Palestinian people through the PLO, their sole legitimate representative. Third, the uprising came as an inevitable expression of the "Palestinian people's will to continue struggle until liberation and until the establishment of an independent state under the PLO's leadership."

Moreover, both Abu Rahmah and Sinyurah urged Shultz to make an effective personal contribution. They also called for the participation of the United States, as a superpower, in the efforts to end the Israeli occupation and solve the Palestine question. Sinyurah and Abu Rahmah presented the uprising's demands, which include 14 points and urge an end to the repressive Israeli practices.

According to Palestinian sources, Shultz only listened and did not make any official commitment to respond to the Palestinian demands. However, he did hint that the United States intends to launch a move in the region soon, but he did not reveal its nature. The sources also said that the U.S. secretary of state had requested that the Palestinian personalities explain three points. He asked about the failure of the national Palestinian personalities to meet with him during his first visit to the Arab territories last November. The answer was that boycotting his meeting was a reply to the U.S. Administration's order to close the PLO Information Office in Washington. He also posed questions about the reasons for the uprising.

Abu Rahmah and Sinyurah explained the situation in Gaza and the West Bank, as well as the repressive Israeli practices. According to the Palestinian sources, they stressed the Palestinian people's national demands and aspirations.

The third explanation dealt with the stands of the two Palestinian personalities with regard to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's recent initiative. Sinyurah and Abu Rahmah said that the Egyptian initiative primarily concerned the need to hold an international conference. However, it is not sufficient to meet the uprising's demands and those of the Palestinian people, who hope that the occupation will end and that their legitimate rights will be recognized, especially their right to self-determination.

Despite the affirmation by some official Palestinian sources that both Sinyurah and Abu Rahmah had adhered to the uprising's demands and to the Palestinian national consensus, this did not reduce the criticism of this meeting by other Palestinian factions, particularly the PFLP, the DFLP, and the Palestinian Communist Party. This was especially so in view of the fact that the PLO leadership and the PLO Executive Committee "did not make an official decision in this regard." However, other Palestinian sources said that the arrangement for the meeting took place in less than 24 hours and that ranking circles in the PLO which object to such a meeting were notified on the condition that the meeting would not result in any concessions regarding the uprising's demands and the resolutions of the 18th PNC session held in Algiers last April.

Official Palestinian sources say that the PLO has no delusions that the U.S. Administration will change its current stand despite the fact that the meeting sought to "officialy inform the U.S. Administration about the uprising's demands and the current situation in the occupied Arab territories." Sources from other factions view the meeting as a circumvention of the unified leadership of the uprising. Although information points to the fact that both Abu Rahmah and Sinyurah had received a green light from official Palestinian circles which permitted the meeting, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, member of the DFLP Political Bureau and Executive committee member, says that even though he knew that Sinyurah and Abu Rahmah had requested such a green light from the PLO, there was no need to permit such a step.

In a statement to AL-RA'Y, 'Abd Rabbuh added that such meetings seek to "abort the uprising and to polish the faces of personalities and sides whom Washington wants to highlight as moderate elements in order to circumvent the unified leadership of the uprising." He said that what happened shows that Washington has not closed the doors and has not lost hope of the possibility of holding a dialogue with "parties whom it views as moderate," thereby circumventing the PLO.

'Abd Rabbuh added: "It is high time to stop lodging grievances and complaints with Washington. The U.S. stand will remain unchanged toward the Palestinian people's legitimate rights unless the Palestinian policy of boycotting continues."

'Arafat on Soviet Push for Conference Acceptance

LD302036 Kuwait KUNA in English 1614 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Rome, Jan 30 (KUNA)—The Soviet-Israeli contacts target driving the Israelis to accept the idea of an international conference on peace in the Middle East, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat was quoted as saying Saturday.

In an interview with the Italian newspaper "L'UNITA" 'Arafat said Soviet President Andrey Gromyko has informed him about those contacts since their start in 1984 "and I believe that Moscow wants to drive the Israelis to accept the international conference."

'Arafat said however that he is convinced that the Israeli Government does not want peace and both the coalition partners, the Likud and the Labor, are participating in the crimes against the Palestinian people.

He further said that "Shamir (Israel's Premier Yitzhaq Shamir) has taken the decision to crush the Palestinian people and Rabin (defense minister) is implementing that decision which is being blessed by Peres (the foreign minsiter) who is against any Palestinian independence, but wants to impose the Jordanian option."

On the PLO ambitions, 'Arafat said the Palestinian people "do not ask for the moon, but what they want is the international legitimacy."

He added that the PLO wants to participate in the proposed international conference on an equal footing with all other parties concerned, and rejected the idea that the PLO takes part in the second stage of the negotiations so as "to make us a secondary and not a major party."

He attributed the anti-PLO position of the Israeli public opinion to the Zionist propaganda and said "their talks about their fear is fake because they have some 35-40 nuclear bombs and have nuclear warheads that threaten the southern part of the Soviet Union."

He further said that "the Israeli fakery is very clear and in order not to give them any pretexts I say that we are ready to accept United Nations forces not on the borders of our future Palestinian state but on the territory of that state."

'Arafat rejected the idea of giving Gaza Strip back to Egypt and the West Bank to Jordan saying the Palestinian people want the right to self-determination. He pledged that the struggle will continue until that right is attained and the independent state is set up.

'Arafat concluded by saying that the popular uprising has "provided us with determination and we will continue the march," and said he has no worry for the future "as long as my Palestinian people is giving birth to these stone-hurling children, these new generals who will continue the march."

Egypt's Mubarak Cannot Speak for Palestinians

JN292103 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] The political editor of the Al-Quds Radio, the Palestinian Arab radio on the path of the liberation of land and man, has responded to statements made by the Zionist representative at the United Nations, who said that at this time and outside this hall constructive talks are being held to find a way for direct talks. He means the Washington talks among Mubarak, Reagan, Sinyurah, Rahmah, and Shultz. Our radio's political editor has written the following brief response:

When Mubarak succeeds in Tabah, then he can speak on behalf of others. When he succeeds in restoring Egyptian Arab sovereignty over Sinai, which is occupied by the American Zionist forces under the name of early warning bases, then we can allow him to speak in the name of others. Now that demonstrations at the Universities of 'Ayn Shams, Asyut, and Al-Jizah have announced that Egypt is under American-Zionist tutelage, Mubarak and those who are holding talks with Shultz have no right to speak in the name of our people.

Our people's only official spokesman is the shouts of the demonstrations staged in the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque. Our people's only working paper is the stone held in the hands of our youth.

'Arafat Receives Egyptian Party Delegation

JN301714 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, has received Brother Ibrahim Shukri, leader of the Egyptian Socialist Labor Party, and his accompanying delegation, who are participating in the meetings of African socialists.

During their talks, they comprehensively reviewed the developments of our Palestinian people's heroic and continued uprising against the Zionist occupation and its repression and terrorism. They also reviewed the great effects this uprising has had in the enemy's arena, as well as on an Arab and international level.

WAFA has learned that discussions also touched on current political developments and on Egypt's role in enhancing its moves and activity with the aim of consolidating the brave struggle our Palestinian people are waging under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

Brother Ibrahim Shukri told Brother Abu 'Ammar that the Egyptian people, parties, and forces express absolute and unlimited support for the giant uprising the Palestinian people are waging on all fronts under the PLO. He asserted that the Egyptian parties have approved a plan for collective action to support the Palestinian people's revolution to regain their legitimate national rights, including repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

'Arafat Receives King Fahd Solidarity Message

JN291750 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Jan 88

["Text" of message from King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat; received on 28 January]

[Text] Dear Brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces: May peace, mercy, and the blessing of God be upon you.

I have received your excellency's message on the Palestinian Arab people's uprising and confrontation of all sorts of terrorism exercised by the occupation authorities, which defy all international principles and norms. The current Palestinian people's uprising in the towns, villages, plains, and mountains of Palestine is a brave exercise of their legitimate right to defend their land, identity, and holy places—a right approved by all international principles.

Contemporary history records that never before have a people been subjected to injustice, aggression, and plotting against their land and sovereignty to the degree experienced by the Palestinian Arab people. However, history has proved that these people have resisted and still are resisting all forms of injustice. This is thanks to their absolute conviction that God will support His good worshippers, who are fighting in defense of their religion, dignity, and ideals. Our Arab and Islamic nation, as well as the entire world, praise your fraternal people's continuous sacrifices and defense of the Arab and Islamic dignity, thereby giving the best examples in modern history.

While appreciating your commendation for the support of Saudi Arabia—people and government—for the Palestinian people's struggle and sacrifices, I affirm to you that Saudi Arabia will, God willing, continue to support the Palestinian people's struggle until they achieve victory. We have great hopes that God will support and grant victory to your dear people. We pray to God Almighty to strengthen and support your people against their enemies until they regain their dear land and holy places.

Please accept my regards.

DFLP's Hawatimah on 'Uprising' Significance

NC291524 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah has stated that the Palestinian uprising underscores the fact that the Palestinian issue is at the core of the Middle East crisis. It is a hot issue which is being christened daily in blood. It cannot be ignored, as the U.S. Administration has been trying to do for the past few years.

In an interview appearing in today's AL-SAFIR, Hawatimah said: The uprising proves that the Middle East will remain a turbulent region as long as no just solution is found for the Palestinian issue. The uprising is further evidence that the Camp David schemes brought no solution but instead heightened tensions.

Hawatimah asserted that solutions for the Palestinian issue should not be discussed with Jordan, as the United States and Israel think. The major goal of the uprising, he added, is to expel the occupying troops from the territories and to replace them with an international observer force. The aim is to give our people the right to return to their land, to exercise self-determination, and to establish a state of their own. Our people will continue to struggle to force the occupation authorities to heed the 1949 Geneva treaty on the treatment of civilians, Hawatimah affirmed, noting that the UN Security Council has called for compliance with this treaty. He said: The Palestinian people's address is PLO; it is not Amman or Cairo.

Khalid al-Fahum Urges 'Uprising' To Continue

JN291223 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1000 GMT 29 Jan 88

["Message" from Khalid al-Fahum, identified as PNC speaker, to Palestinian people in the Israeli-occupied territory—live or recorded]

[Text] Our people in the occupied land, our people in all parts of sacred Palestine, our people in the Gaza Strip, in the camps, the West Bank, in the Galilee, the Negev, and the triangle: We convey to you our greetings and our boundless admiration for your uprising and your tempestuous popular revolution which has spread to all the

camps, villages, and cities of Palestine. We are proud of you. You have restored the Palestinian cause to the forefront after the enemy camp had sought to obliterate it and shelve it.

Brothers, we greet you and we appeal to you to pursue your uprising and your revolution. We also appeal to you to safeguard national unity. And hold fast, all together, by the rope of Allah and be not divided. [Koranic verse] The enemy will do its best to abort the revolution and the uprising by dealing a blow against national unity. Beware of the enemy's maneuvers. Abide by unity and stand as one man in confronting the occupation.

We in the diaspora support you with all of our capabilities. We are with you in our hearts and minds. We are not the only ones who support you. The entire Arab masses support you. All free and honest men in the world stand by your side. Your revolution and your uprising have had banner headlines in all the world's media. Brothers, you have demonstrated that you are the sons of Palestine in word and deed. Verily, we can say that Palestine is a fertile and good land. Every generation vies with its predecessor in bountiful offerings. Every generation vies with its predecessor in offering sacrifices.

Brothers in the occupied homeland, you have initiated a new beginning for Palestine and a new beginning for the Arabs, as well as the end of Israel and those U.S. fleets and warships that support it. Pursue your uprising. We are all with you. Do not stop until the complete withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian and Arab land is attained. We greet you and we support you. We will proceed under your leadership.

Al-Quds Radio Carries Abu Musa Message

JN311121 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1000 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Message from Sa'id Musa Muragha, identified as Fatah Secretary Colonel Abu Musa, to "our kinfolk in Palestine"—live or recorded]

[Text] O brother revolutionaries; O free men; O masses of our great people; O people of the continuing miracle; O grandsons of 'Abd al-Qadir al-Husayni, 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam, and Farhan al-Sa'di; O sons of Abu 'Ali Iyad, Majid Abu Sharar, and Sa'd Sayil; O brothers of Dalal al-Mughrabi, Lina al-Nabulsi, Taghrid al-Butnah, Haniyah Ghazzawi, and all the pious martyrs who fell on the altar of freedom; O heroic people, who have been sacrificing the blood of their sons for the sake of the homeland in continued struggle and with firm determination for 100 years: Blessed are you, the people of sacrifice and self-denial, as you embrace the pious martyrs, forge an epic of struggle with the bodies of your men, women, and children, defy death and terrorism, persecution and tyranny, undeterred by the suffering in the big prison or the torture in the small cells of the enemy's prisons. Blessed are the youthful arms as they resist the occupiers, defying the cowardly bullets, seeking martyrdom for the sake of the homeland, all the homeland, turning the ground into flames beneath the invaders, and astonishing the world with their outstanding heroism. Blessed are you, O great people, as you inscribe with blood a shining and glorious page of our nation's history, as you inscribe with blood wreaths of pride on the pages of time, exploding like a human time bomb in the face of the occupiers to keep the banner of struggle flying high and to topple the banner of capitulation and complacency. Let the history of Palestine be consecrated in pure blood on the path of freedom.

O our people in the Galilee, the Triangle, Jerusalem, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Nabulus, Gaza, Hebron, Tulkarm, Qalqilyah, Jericho, Janin, Khan Yunus, Rafah, Jabalyah, Haifa, Jaffa, and in every town, village, and refugee camp in the pure land of Palestine; O beloved who are standing fast and enduring in the most important arena of confrontation: By your heroic uprising you have given eloquent lessons to those who do not learn. You have shown what it means to hold on to one's identity and homeland, what sacrifice and suffering in their cause is like, and what constitutes genuine national unity in combatting the enemies.

Further steadfastness, O our heroic people! More determination and unity in the face of the occupiers and their agents. Further determination to hold on to a united homeland. Further sacrifices and contributions which you have made in one epic after another. As we greet you, children and women, old people and men, we emphasize to you that we are faithful to our pledge and will hold on to the option of revolution, the option of armed struggle, the option of genuine national unity. We pledge that the blood of the martyrs which has drenched the land of Palestine will not be in vain. We continue to follow their path until liberation and victory. It is a revolution until victory.

Your brother, Abu Musa

Helicopters Drop 'Gas Bombs' on Demonstrators

JN291230 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] Brother strugglers, we have just received the following report: The Al-Nabi Yunus Mosque in Halhul is currently the scene of a tumultuous demonstrations and clashes with the Zionist army. Demonstrations are also taking place in the Bab al-Saha area, Hittin Street, the Al-Salahi Mosque, and the old city in heroic Nabulus. Palestinian flags have been raised. The Zionist forces are firing gas bombs at these demonstrators from helicopters.

Israeli Soldiers Enter Church of Holy Sepulchur

JN311153 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1133 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Brother strugglers, we have just received the following report: The American-Zionist forces of tyranny stormed the Church of the Holy Sepulchur in

Jerusalem at noon today, attacked worshippers, and destroyed the church's furniture. Zionist enemy soldiers beat up members of the congregation who tried to march in protest against this savage behavior of the enemy forces. Demonstrations are continuing in Jerusalem.

Casualties Reported in Nabulus March
JN311209 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1144 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Brother strugglers, we have just received the following report: Citizens in Nabulus are marching toward the headquarters of the Zionist military governor in the city. The citizens did not stop their advance despite the fact that Zionist enemy troops opened fire at them. A number of marchers were left dead or wounded as a result.

Demonstration in Ramallah
JN311257 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1208 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Brother listeners, we have just received the following report: A tumultuous demonstration set out from the Church of God in Ramallah following prayers today. According to eyewitnesses, the citizens uprooted telephone poles and used them to barricade the streets. A general strike continues and the demonstration is still going strong.

Al-Quds Radio Instructs 'Slingshot Forces'
JN311149 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1022 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Brother strugglers, slingshot forces from among our heroic youth: The enemy has resorted to beatings and the breaking of limbs and bones. It storms houses in order to beat up women, young men, and old people and to break their limbs and bones.

Slingshot forces from among our youth: Let us organize our movement properly. Let us break their bones with stones from our slingshots. Let us organize our movement in the form of groups. There should be five heroes in each group. These groups should position themselves left, right, and center. The slingshot users should occupy the left and right flanks, keeping a safe distance between them, while the stone-throwers should occupy the central positions.

Let us smash their bones and skulls before they smash ours. God is with us, and victory is near. Let us march together on the path of liberating land and man.

Israeli Soldiers Reportedly Steal From Detainees
JN311308 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 0948 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Zionist enemy soldiers and officers are stealing from Palestinian citizens by various means such as trickery and the threat to use arms. A number of youths who were detained at the headquarters of the Zionist military governor in Hebron said that (Yobi Swisa), a Zionist soldier whose number is 4365435, had asked them to hand over the money in their possession to be held as a safety deposit at the military governor's headquarters. After the youths handed him the money, he went away and did not return. When the youths became suspicious of such conduct, they lodged an official complaint against the man, who admitted his action. However, the money was not returned to its owners.

This is just one of many incidents in which soldiers and officers have stolen money, watches, furniture, and other items from Palestinians.

Such matters are not strange. The day will come when every soldier will receive his due punishment.

'Combat' Group Attacks Israeli Plant in Haifa
JN312009 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1830 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Statement by the military spokesman for the Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command; date and place not given]

[Text] In support of our Palestinian people's great and heroic uprising, and in reply to the Zionist occupation forces' bestial crimes against our unarmed people in the occupied territory, one of our combat groups operating inside the occupied homeland planted highly explosive and incendiary bombs inside the gas storage facilities in the Haifa area in northern occupied Palestine and returned safely to base. The Palestinian bombs exploded last night, causing a huge fire which destroyed the storage facilities. Tongues of flames were seen billowing over the area. More than four storage facilities were burned to the ground and several enemy personnel were killed or wounded.

The enemy radio admitted the explosion but claimed that only four people were wounded in the fire, which burned out of control until early today, and that four storage areas were destroyed. Revolution until victory!

Chad

Lassou Departs For Libreville OAU Meeting

AB311213 Dakar PANA in French 1040 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Ndjamena, 31 Jan (ATP/PANA)—Chadian Foreign Minister Gouara Lassou left Ndjamena this morning for Libreville (Gabon) where he will attend the ministerial session of the OAU ad hoc committee on the Chad-Libya conflict, which opens tomorrow in the Gabonese capital. Gouara Lassou will stop over in Cameroon and will arrive in Libreville this evening.

Zaire's President Stops Over on Way to France

AB311219 Dakar PANA in French 1024 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Ndjamena, 31 Jan (ATP/PANA)—Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko, who is on his way to France, this morning made a 1-hour stopover at the Ndjamena International Airport where the Zairian presidential couple was met by Mr and Mrs Hissein Habre. The two statesmen later held brief talks in the VIP Lounge. Chad and Zaire maintain excellent relations in all fields, it was recalled in the Chadian capital, where people are pleased to emphasize Zaire's support for the Chadian cause "in all circumstances."

Sahel Drought Control Summit Concludes 29 Jan

AB292110 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Mission accomplished for Chad: Our country has hosted the eighth summit of the heads of state and government of the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel [ICDCS], which ended today in Ndjamena. The meeting lasted 2 days, during which time the people of Ndjamena and its environs, people from all walks of life, mobilized themselves despite their exhaustion and the heat, to give a rousing welcome to our distinguished guests, members of the ICDCS, in conformity with the legendary hospitality of the Chadians. [passage omitted]

Final Communique Issued

AB300738 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Final communique issued in Ndjamena on 29 January at the end of the Eighth ICDCS Summit, read by ICDCS Executive Secretary Brah Mamane—recorded]

[Text] Continuing its deliberations behind closed doors, the conference heard the report for 1986-1987 presented by the minister coordinator. It took note of this report and congratulated him for the work that was done. The conference also approved the conclusions contained in the report of the 23d session of the Council of Ministers, as well as those in the report of the extraordinary session devoted to the review of the agro-pastoral campaign of 1987-1988. The conference urged the member states to ensure the effective implementation of the resolutions adopted, particularly those concerning the amendment of the provisions relating to the organizational chart and the administrative setup of the ICDCS Executive Secretariat and of the Sahel Institute.

The conference also acknowledged the efforts made by the ICDCS during the past 2 years, in coherence and in respect for the restructuring principles, to maintain the organization's credibility, to strengthen the confidence of our partners, and to establish a better program development policy and [words indistinct]. The conference discussed, in particular, such important issues as food security, the fight against desertification, protection of plants from pests and rodents, and the indebtedness of the Sahel countries. Concerning food security, the conference reaffirmed the need to end the dependence on food aid in particular by the effective implementation of the [word indistinct] conference and the strengthening of solidarity among Sahel countries.

In this regard, the conference lauded the efforts made by the member states, the ICDCS, and the international community to forestall any further food crises and to ensure a greater harmonization of agricultural and food policies of the ICDCS member states. The conference urged the ICDCS and the member states to pursue and strengthen their gains in developing agricultural production and productivity in the Sahel region, in bolstering inter-Sahel exchanges, in improving the quality and rapid dissemination of information, as well as in promoting local cereal types. The conference called on the international community to support the efforts of ICDCS member states in their search for food self-sufficiency and food security, in particular by promoting agriculture in the Sahel region and implementing major regional programs.

Concerning the fight against desertification, the conference noted with satisfaction the achievements of the states in the coordination and programming of their national plans. It paid tribute to the wise initiative of President Abdou Diouf in committing the ICDCS member states to make concerted efforts to contribute to the fight against desertification, a step which led to the drafting of the Sahel program for education which was adopted during the ministerial conference in November 1987 in Dakar. The conference expressed happiness with the establishment of major regional programs to fight desertification, in conformity with the conclusions of the October 1986 meeting in Praia, as well as with the acceptance of these programs by our partners. These programs concern important areas such as alternative energy sources, hydraulics, the monitoring of the ecological system, and training in the field of information. The conference urged the ICDCS member states to take an active part in the realization of these programs and called on the international community to strengthen its support for these programs.

(?Noting) the important losses of crops due to pests and rodents, and realizing the need for a common fight against them, the conference reaffirmed its desire to arm the region against these pests and rodents by effectively implementing the protection program for plants. In this connection, the conference called on the international community to (?assist) the member states and the ICDCS to strengthen national plant protection plans and to ensure efficient regional coordination, as well as to pursue integrated research programs for the fight against the enemies of food crops.

Concerning the financial situation of the ICDCS member states, after noting the excessive and heavy debt burden as well as the economic situation of the member states, the conference lauded the wise initiative of some donor countries to cancel some of these debts. The conference made an urgent appeal for a lasting solution to this painful problem of financial dependency that, undoubtedly, is as harmful as the drought and desertification.

Concerning the chairmanship of the Conference of Heads of State, the conference unanimously appointed His Excellency Hissein Habre [applause], president of the Republic of Chad, head of state, and founding chairman of the National Union for Independence and Revolution, as chairman of the ICDCS Conference of Heads of State for a 2-year term, from 1988 to 1990. It also appointed His Excellency Carlos Correia, Guinea-Bissau minister of state for Rural Development and Fisheries, as ICDCS minister coordinator for 1988-1990. [applause]

In response to an invitation from His Excellency Bernardo Vieira, president of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, the conference agreed to hold its ninth ordinary session in Guinea-Bissau in January 1990. [applause] Before closing its deliberations, the conference expressed warmest congratulations to President Abdou Diouf on the impetus that he gave the organization, and thanked President El Hadj Hissein Habre, as well as the Chadian Government and people, for the very warm and fraternal reception given the guests. [applause]

Issued in Ndjamena on 29 January 1988.

[Signed] The Conference of Heads of State [applause]

Egypt

Further Reportage on Mubarak's Visit to U.S.

Reagan Talks 'Most Important'

JN291701 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 27 Jan 88 p 5

[Editorial: "Mubarak-Reagan Talks and Their Significance"]

[Text] Perhaps President Husni Mubarak's talks in Washington today with President Reagan and other U.S. officials in addition to Congressional leaders rank as the most important discussions during his tour of Western capitals. This is due to the special relationship between the United States and Israel, and Washington's ceaseless support for whatever Tel Aviv does in the Mideast. There are signs, however, that Washington has begun to feel embarrassed by supporting all of Israel's illegal practices against the Palestinian people in the occupied land. The embarrassment has manifested itself in the U.S. delegate's refraining from vetoing three UN Security Council resolutions in the past few weeks.

We must, however, not lose sight of a number of factors that can sway the American stand toward Israel at this particular point in time. This is the 1st month of 1988, the year of the November presidential elections. Traditionally, important decisions have been postponed during the election campaign, making the U.S. Administration a lame duck, so to speak. Vying for the Jewish vote by the Republicans and Democrates also peaks during this period; both make a point of not angering Tel Aviv.

There is another factor that ought not to be overlooked. This is President Reagan's last year in office. Consequently, he can afford not to curry favor with U.S. Jewry and Israeli leaders. President Reagan can follow the dictates of his conscience and at least be evenhanded in dealing with the Arabs and Jews. We hope this is the kind of approach President Reagan will take in his last year in the White House, thus leaving behind something good to be remembered by.

Admittedly, President Reagan may be reluctant to take this course of action for fear of hurting the fortunes of his Republican Party in the elections. We would remind him that a fine predecessor of his, Dwight Eisenhower, stood up to the 1956 Israeli aggression against Egypt in the thick of the presidential elections campaign, and went on to win a landslide.

Initiative 'Motivated' by Violence

NC292120 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2000 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] Washington, 29 Jan (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has said that his initiative to activate the peace process in the Middle East was motivated by the dangerous escalation of acts of violence in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. He added that he was also motivated by the lack of genuine efforts in this respect. Mubarak noted that the idea of an international peace conference and serious efforts to convene such a conference would give hope to the Palestinians in the occupied territories and assure them that there is a serious intention to resolve their issue; then violence and counterviolence will stop.

In an interview with the Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Washington, broadcast today, President Mubarak said that the whole world has responded positively to the initaitive, noting that U.S. officials in particular are contemplating means for a solution. He stated that

numerous world forces are supporting the initiative and the convocation of an international peace conference, including forces inside Israel, noting that the danger threatens not only Israel but all countries of the region.

Mubarak asserted that no one should fear an international conference because it would not impose specific solutions on the parties concerned. The whole idea, he said, is for the parties concerned to meet face-to-face to resolve their problems, with a solution reached by all.

Asked whether he had achieved anything regarding the initiatiave during his visit to the United States, Mubarak affirmed that he had sensed understanding and an active effort in this regard. He pointed out that when the conference convenes, all parties will consider together the course of action needed, thus narrowing gaps and offering hope for a solution.

In his interview, President Mubarak hailed the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories, saying that everyone is working and exerting maximum effort to restore their rights in order to establish peace in the region.

Asked if he expects imminent solutions for the situation in the region, Mubarak expressed hope that tangible results would soon emerge so that the region may live in love, peace, and security.

The correspondent asked the president a final question on autonomy in the occupied territories and current efforts in this regard. Mubarak replied that there are various ideas and views regarding this matter, and he prefers that methods and solutions be agreed to under the umbrella of an international peace conference.

Meets With Arab Envoys 29 Jan

NC300631 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0005 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Washington, 29 Jan (MENA)—President Mubarak met with Arab ambassadors to the United States this evening (Washington time) in the hotel where he is staying. Present at the almost 1-hour meeting were Dr 'Isniat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Ridi, Egypt's ambassador in Washington; and the Mauritanian ambassador, who is the dean of the diplomatic corps in the United States.

In a statement after the meeting, the Kuwaiti ambassador in Washington, Prince Sa'ud al-Sabah, said that President Mubarak had declared that Egypt does not accept any alternative to an international conference and negotiations. Any attempt to avert an international conference will be unacceptable to Egypt and the rest of the Arab countries, for such an attempt will lead nowhere. The Kuwaiti ambassador stated that President Mubarak had affirmed that the U.S. Administration was receptive to and optimistic about his five-point initiative, and that the U.S. Administration has now listened to all the parties concerned. Mubarak also noted that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's position, which rejects an international conference, is fluctuating somewhat. The Kuwaiti diplomat stated that President Mubarak had pointed out that there is confidence in the ability of the region's countries to defend themselves and that there is no need for the presence of Egyptian forces in the Gulf. He added that Mubarak had affirmed that Egypt supports a UN Security Council resolution imposing sanctions on (?Iran)

Daily Notes Initiative's Success

NC300710 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jan (MENA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH states in its editorial to be published on Saturday that President Mubarak's initiative has achieved obvious success in Washington. It notes U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy's statement that his country strongly supports the initiative, and that it will hold intensive contacts with Jordan and Israel to formulate and implement the necessary procedures in this respect.

The paper says that this declaration comes after the Egyptian-U.S. summit focused on the Egyptian initiative, which aims to place the Middle East on the road to peace, to achieve a just solution to the conflict in the region, to protect the Palestinian people from suppression and schemes of violence in the occupied territories, and to guarantee the Palestinians' security and safety.

The paper points out that President Reagan's description of President Mubarak as one of the founders of peace in the Middle East and his statement that Mubarak has undertaken active measures to achieve peace naturally reflect the solid and unrelenting Egyptian peace drive that stems from Egypt's strong position in the Arab region, as well as from its regional and international responsibilities to divert tension from this vital area.

In conclusion, the paper asserts that President Mubarak has placed the region's hopes and sufferings before one of the two superpowers, explicitly calling for the resumption of the peace process and for efforts to halt the Gulf war. Bringing the parties to this war to the negotiating table would follow the interests of the region's peoples and countries and satisfy the entire world community.

PBS Interviews Mubarak

NC300756 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0730 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Washington, 30 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak announced that the U.S. Administration has accepted the concept of his recent peace initiative in its entirety and added that it is currently considering a new plan to maintain the drive of the peace process in the Middle East.

In an interview with a U.S. television network broadcast last night, President Mubarak said he believes that halting Israeli settlement activities in the occupied territories and agreeing to hold an international conference for peace in the Middle East will give the Palestinian people hope. He stressed that peace will not be attained without the convening of such a conference.

President Mubarak declared that Egypt and the United States are currently holding talks in order to discuss all possibilities concerning these matters. He said: If we reach agreement on the provisions of the initiative, then this will signify that we are giving hope to the people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for a solution. He noted: If we ask that acts of violence be stopped without providing any hope, then I do not believe that anyone will respond.

President Husni Mubarak said he believes that an international conference can be convened within 6 months. Commenting on the references made by some people that this is a year of U.S. presidential elections and general elections in Israel, President Mubarak remarked: "We cannot wait while acts of violence continue merely because of upcoming elections here or there."

President Mubarak urged Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to be more flexible, noting that the international conference will not impose views on any party.

Concerning the possibility of reviving the autonomy talks according to the Camp David accords, President Mubarak said that the term "Camp David" is not acceptable in the Arab world and, for psychological reasons, we must find another phrasing and put the term "Camp David" aside.

Responding to a question on how optimistic he is with regard to the possibility of achieving peace in the Middle East, President Mubarak said that he is optimistic by nature. He expressed the belief that the Israelis will not be able to live for long with violence, bloodshed, and firing at people and killing them. He declared that if the Israelis continue these acts, then this will arouse feelings against them, not merely in the Arab community, but in other parts of the world as well.

The following is the text of President Husni Mubarak's interview with the American Public Broadcasting Service [PBS] network, a noncommercial network dependent on the American public for financing:

Question: Has your visit provided a solution to the occupied Arab territories' problem?

The President: I presented my initiative before arriving in Washington. I found that the situation was very grave: the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza is a forceful warning that something must be done to push the peace pocess forward. Otherwise, the resultant consequences cannot be predicted and the uprising could develop into very grave incidents, not only inside the occupied territories alone but outside them, too. Hence, I proposed a halt to violent acts for 6 months in order to create an opportunity for thinking and for preparing for the international conference. I know that the Israelis might reject some points mentioned in the initiative, but I want to push all parties to work for peace, and to think of peace and of its importance to the region.

Question: Have you made any progress in that connection?

The President: Those in Washington understand everything. They have started to act now for the sake of the peace process.

Question: What do they intend to do?

The President: They, the U.S. Administration, are thinking of a new plan to maintain the impetus of the peace process. Talks are taking place now between the Egyptian and U.S. delegations to discuss all possibilities. If we agree on the provisions of the initiative, this would mean that we are giving the people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip a hope that there will be a solution. I believe that they will respond to the call to end the acts of violence. This is the only way. But, if we ask for an end to acts of violence without giving any hope of a solution, then I believe that no one will respond.

Question: What is the stand of U.S. officials on Israeli settlements in the occupied territories?

The President: My information is that the settlement activities have stopped now. According to what I have learned from some Israeli officials, and as I have understood from the U.S. Administration here as well, the settlement activities could be stopped. I believe that halting the settlement program and agreeing to the holding of the international conference will give people hope. There are other elements, too, such as creating an international mechanism for protecting the Palestinians. I believe that the Israelis will not accept this. Very frankly, I am giving them something they can reject, hoping that they will accept other provisions.

Question: What has the U.S. Administration agreed to?

The President: The U.S. Administration has approved the notion as a whole, I mean the notion of the initiative. They are now more sensitive and really interested in proposing a plan to give an impetus to the peace process. The important thing is their approval of the initiative as a whole. I do not believe that peace can be achieved without holding the international conference.

Question: The Israeli prime minister was quoted today as saying that he could be more responsive to the idea of convening an international conference.

The President: This is very good. I thank him very much, and I ask him to be more flexible. I urge him to be flexible. An international conference would not impose conditions on any party. We would sit down to begin the work of the international conference, and then we would split into different groups and discuss all subjects. Should we arrive at something, no one would have the right to object. Should a problem arise, mediators would intervene. For example, the United States is regarded as a full partner in the peace process. This is what happened in the past.

Question: In your opinion, when can an international conference be convened?

The President: An international conference could convene within 6 months, and this would be extremely good. However, there are those who reiterate that the current year is a year of elections in the United States, as well as in Israel. One could also say that the current year is a year of elections in France or any other country, but while acts of violence continue, we cannot wait merely because elections are to be held in one place or another.

There is no fear of the elections process since we would be working to achieve a just solution. We should be practical and act to persuade the Israelis to understand the situation. We cannot order a halt to the acts of violence because there are elections in the United States, nor can we predict the results that this entails.

We do not want to wait and then regret doing so. This is why we should act. I believe that the Israeli prime minister has good experience, and that he can understand and realize that achieving a solution and peace are extremely important for all of us.

Question: What can the United States offer to set the peace process into motion?

The President: The United States can persuade Israel to agree to convene an international conference and to advance along this path. I feel that the United States intends to give momentum to the peace process by adopting other means.

Question: What other means?

The President: I cannot divulge this now because we are in the process of formulating these means. For this reason, I cannot talk about matters of which I am not yet fully aware. There are discussions on what can be done and what steps can be taken.

As I answer these questions, even now the Egyptian and U.S. sides are exchanging views on this matter.

Question: The Israelis are talking about reviving the autonomy talks in accordance with the Camp David accords.

The President: The expression "Camp David" is not acceptable to the Arab world. From a psychological standpoint, we should find another formula and cast aside the term "Camp David." Another formula could be found which would be acceptable to the Arab world and which could lead to a settlement.

More than one formula could be proposed under another name that would eventually lead to the same objective.

Question: What objective do you think can be achieved?

The President: Peace and the resolution of the Palestinian problem. This means returning the territories that the Israelis occupy in the West Bank and Gaza to the Palestinians, who would then become linked with Jordan. This is how I see it.

Question: You mean an independent Palestinian state.

The President: I have not spoken of an independent Palestinian state. We want to restore the occupied territories to their status before the 1967 War under Jordanian administration. Anything else can be discussed later.

Question: Will Israel agree to this?

The President: Israel's agreeing to this will be better than continuing the acts of violence and bloodshed.

Question: What about guaranteeing Israeli security?

The President: We are concerned with the establishment of secure borders for all parties, for Israel and other countries. We are not asking miracles of Israel, but we are asking it to discuss the arrangements pertaining to the establishment of secure borders. In this regard, we take into consideration the rights of the Palestinians currently living under Israeli occupation.

Question: Mr President, you appear very optimistic.

The President: I am optimistic by nature. I believe that the Israelis will not be able to live for long with acts of violence, bloodshed, and firing at people and killing them. If the Israelis continue these acts, then this is bound to increase sentiments against them, not just in the Arab world, but in other parts of the world as well. The Israelis will find themselves in a very difficult situation. Everyone rejects bloodshed; everyone opposes killing. Violence breeds hatred and further violence, which will spread to other areas. If the acts of violence are now restricted to the West Bank and Gaza, similar acts will erupt outside the West Bank and Gaza unless we provide the people with the hope that a solution will be reached. It is a very serious matter.

Question: What do you expect will happen if efforts to reach a peaceful settlement fail?

The President: We must bear the responsibility for what may happen. I do not believe that the acts of violence will stop. They will spread extensively. I do not want to continue speaking about this on television because this may be some sort of... exerting pressure to arouse further violence in other places.

Question: How great is the responsibility of the United States?

The President: We regard the United States as a full partner. The United States has numerous friends in the region. All of them will blame it if nothing is done to stop the violence. Furthermore, everyone sympathizes with the Palestinians, who possess nothing but rocks while being subjected to death with bullets. Everyone is against that. Indeed, there are pressure groups inside Israel itself that oppose the bloodshed and violence and demand that the violence be stopped.

This violence will not contribute to security in Israel itself. No tourists will visit it, and no one will emigrate there. Israel will find itself in a very difficult situation. I hope that logic will prevail and that the Israelis will understand that holding an international conference is better for them and will not harm them.

Addresses Dallas Luncheon

NC310600 Cairo MENA in English 2021 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Dallas, Texas, Jan 30 (MENA)—Visiting Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, addressing a luncheon given at the Plaza Hotel here today in his honour by members of the Dallas World Affairs Council, Fort Worth Council for International Affairs, the International Club of the Dallas Chamber of Commerce and the Arab-U.S. Chamber of Commerce, said: "We view the world today as a planet that is confronted with awesome challenges and tremendous dangers. This is true, both with respect to the relationship between man and environment and with regard to his relations with fellow men everywhere. We cannot meet these challenges with ideas and attitudes that belong to the past."

The president further said: "Instead, we must be imaginative and creative enough to develop new ideas that are likely to provide us with effective solutions to pressing problems. More than ever before, there is a great need today for deepening the commitment of all nations in all four corners of the world to the goals of peace and prosperity. Each and every one of us should realize that we are all in the same boat. The policy of isolationism and protectionism belongs to the past. The doctrines of war and crude military might have lost their validity and relevance in this day and age. Peace is the only hope for mankind."

President Mubarak went on to say in his speech: "As Emerson once said: 'Nothing can bring you peace but yourself.' That is why we supported the courageous steps which have been taken recently in order to strengthen the structure of world peace and security. By the same token, we are working tirelessly and relentlessly to establish peace in our region, the Middle East. Today, there are several threats to peace in that area. First and foremost, the futile war that is raging in the Gulf poses a real threat to all the peoples of the region and other nations as well."

Dealing with the same issue, President Mubarak said: "The effective way to deal with this challenge is that we should spare no effort in order to bring that war to an end. If that does not happen soon, the danger of dragging outside powers into this conflict, directly or indirectly, whether they like it or not, would loom high in the horizon. What is needed is not to side with this party or that. It is to side with the termination of war and adopt a policy that is apt to bring about this conclusion. The American policy has taken this road after a period of uncertainty and hesitation."

Elaborating, President Mubarak said: "Other nations are called upon to join together in a determined effort to bring the war to an end. No ifs and buts can be justified."

Dealing with the Palestinian issue, President Mubarak said: "Of equal importance and priority stands the unresolved problem of the Palestinian people. For years, I have repeatedly urged all the parties concerned to move toward peace without delay. I have stated again and again that the continuation of the status quo was inconceivable. Recent events proved the validity of these premises. I am not saying this today to prove that I was right all along, for it is not important to determine who was right or wrong."

President Mubarak said: "My purpose is to demonstrate to all those concerned, particularly to the skeptics and rejectionists, that there exists in fact a way out of the present predicament. The solution lies in moving seriously from confrontation and bloodshed to negotiations and reconciliation. Unfortunately, some have decided to stick to the ideas of the unhappy past and implement a policy of force and sheer intimidation. They opted to deal with legitimate protests, however unruly they may seem, by frustrated young men and women through brazen force that degenerated from shooting to beating. This is a travesty to humanity."

President Mubarak went on to say: "As a Western observer has said, 'It is an affront to civilized values.' Perhaps what is most regrettable is the fact that such a policy constitutes an unwarranted betrayal of the Jewish values and tradition. In practical terms, this shortsighted policy is doomed to failure. Similar tactics have been used in the past to no avail. The Palestinian people will not be forced into submission and acceptance of unending occupation through fear and terror. We will not allow this to happen either. It is our moral obligation and our firm commitment to press for a peaceful and honorable solution, a solution that respects the rights and dignity of all the parties and safeguards their safety and security."

Tackling violence, President Mubarak said: "With this in mind, I proposed a just formula for ending all forms of violence. The forces of negativism have not yet responded to this call which is intended to pave the way for meaningful negotiations, but we are heartened by the reaction of millions across the borders to the idea of ending violence. And I would like to seize this opportunity to salute those free Israelis and Americans who took a courageous stand for peace and justice against war and injustice. Those who raised their voice for peace and fraternity are our true partners in the search for a lasting settlement."

President Mubarak said: "We are not seeking a one-sided solution that endangers the safety or violates the rights of any party. What we are working for is an equitable solution that respects the rights and legitimate aspirations of both parites: To the Israelis, their security and their right to exist and live in peace, and to the Palestinians, their land and their God-given rights. In the past, Israel used to say that it was looking for a partner to negotiate with. Today, it is evident that this partner is there."

On peaceful settlement, President Mubarak said: "Let me tell you that all the Arab leaders I met with a few days ago, and I repeat "all" these leaders, including P.L.O. Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, have made it crystal clear that they favoured a peaceful settlement. It would be a pity, indeed a tragedy, to miss such a golden opportunity. This would be an unforgivable mistake of historic dimensions. We are calling for the convening of the international peace conference as agreed upon between the parties as early as 1973. Hence, it is not a novelty or an innovation. All of us remain committed to it. We are not insisting on it out of ideological rigidity or adamance."

The president went on to say: "We are simply saying that other formulas have been tried unsuccessfully. Therefore, there is no reason why we should block progress and waste precious time. We are at the eleventh hour. Mr Chairman, many of those who are interested in the Middle East have focused their attention lately on the issue of fundamentalism. It has become a fashionable subject for politicians and specialists alike. Let us examinme this phenomenon together for a while.

"At the outset, I hasten to say that one should not be unmindful or blind to the fact that such a problem exists." Elaborating, the president said: "Like many other parts of the world, the Middle East is going through a transition from the old to the new, from the traditional to the modern. This transition is accentuated and dramatized by two factors: First, the growing sense of insecurity and uncertainty that is fed by the persisting cycle of war and violence. We know only too well that violence breeds violence. Second, the area is witnessing acute economic problems which colour the perception of the future for many, particularly the young generations. Unless we rekindle hope in their hearts and minds, they will naturally fall victim to the theories of despair and the doctrines of doom and gloom."

The president further said: "Thus we are launching a major effort for reform in Egypt. In that, we are moving on two fronts in parallel. First, we are reinforcing democracy and democratic institutions. It is not my style to exaggerate, especially when it comes to complicated social phenomena. However, I tell you in all honesty that I am pleased with the progress we have made. We are determined to add to this structure every day, for we do not believe that we have completed the journey. More remains to be done and we are most willing to do it."

"In the economic field, we have put together an integrated programme for economic reform."

The president said: "We took into consideration vital national interests, both in the short term and in the long term. Our overall objective is to increase production and productivity and promote Egyptian exports. The other side of the coin is to curb rising consumption and reduce imports.

"We are encouraging initiative and promoting the private sector, without discriminating against the public sector. Both sectors constitute the twin horses that are needed to pull the cart and stimulate the economy. They must remain healthy and strong. We place much emphasis on modernizing our system of production in agriculture and industry."

President Mubarak then said: "We want to accelerate the transfer of technology to Egypt. The United States is a logical choice for partner in this process. American companies are welcome to make their contribution. They can rest assured that we are determined to stimulate investment, both foreign and domestic. Certain steps have been taken in this direction and other steps are to follow. We realize that the system we have today is far from being perfect but we are trying hard and wholeheartedly to improve it."

Dealing with Egyptian-U.S. cooperation, President Mubarak said: "The United States has cooperated with us in carrying out this programme, and it is the role of American firms and individual investors to expand this cooperation and find new avenues for joint economic activities. We welcome your initiative and contribution to this process. This is the real spirit of partnership.

"Mr Chairman, the more we travel in your beautiful country, the deeper becomes our conviction that Egyptian-American friendship is one of the pillars of peace and progress in the Middle East and Africa." President Mubarak said: "It is a model for cooperation among nations seeking to improve the quality of life for men, women and children everywhere. Let us pledge to work

closely together to intensify this cooperation in various fields and let us promise to make our visit to Dallas a landmark in the history of our relations."

President Mubarak, starting his speech, said: "Thank you for your thoughtful invitation and gracious hospitality. When I received your invitation, I welcomed this opportunity to meet with such a distinguished group in this glorious city. To us, the visit to Dallas has a special significance."

"First, we Egyptians feel perfectly at home in Dallas. It is a dynamic and flourishing city where the American values and ethics are at their best. Like Texans, we have a deep-rooted sense of pride and dignity. Like them, we live close to nature and greatly value the warmth of human relations."

The president went on to say: "The richness of our culture reflects the strength of the pioneering spirit in the society, individually and collectively. It is based on creative diversity."

"I am delighted to recognize many friends among you. The city of Dallas and the State of Texas have been particularly friendly to Egypt and the Egyptian People. Texan members of Congress in both Houses have made it a tradition to support greater cooperation between the United States and Egypt. Speaker Jim Wright and his colleagues in the House, like the U.S. senators from Texas, have consistently backed such cooperation for our mutual benefit."

The president further said: "In addition, the able mayor of Dallas is a prominent member of the Strauss family, with whom we have the best of relations. They represent the openness of the American mind and the strength of the American work ethics. We are pleased to make this addition to our friends here."

"I am happy to notice that Egyptian-Texans and the other Arabs living among you are making a major contribution to the well-being of Texas and its people. They bring with them from their land a rich cultural heritage and a genuine desire to build bridges of friendship and understanding with other nations."

The president, while introducing ideas arranged above, said: "I propose to share with you a few thoughts on Egypt's policy and objectives in order to stimulate your minds."

Departs Texas For Paris 31 Jan

NC310548 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0300 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Dallas, 30 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak, his wife, and the delegation accompanying them left Dallas, Texas, at 2030 Dallas time, 0430 [31 January] Cairo time, for Paris, following a 5-day visit to the United States.

During the visit, President Mubarak held talks with U.S. President Ronald Reagan, Vice President George Bush, Secretary of State George Shultz, and a number of other senior U.S. officials. The talks dealt with President Mubarak's initiative for peace in the Middle East, the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories, the Gulf war, and several other issues of mutual concern.

Mubarak visited the FRG and Great Britain before his trip to the United States and will visit France, Italy, Morocco, and Tunisia during the remainder of his current tour.

'Abd al-Majid Meets With Sinyurah, Abu Rahmah

NC301626 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Washington, 30 Jan (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met in Washington last night with Hanna Sinyurah, chief editor of the Jerusalem newspaper AL-FAJR, and Fayiz Abu Rahmah, doyen of the lawyers association in the Gaza Strip.

Sinyurah and Abu Rahmah met with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz 2 days ago.

Ghali Briefs USSR Envoy on Mubarak Initiative

NC311544 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Jan 88

[text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, met today with the Soviet ambassador in Cairo. Dr Ghali explained the dimensions of President Mubarak's current tour and the content of the president's initiative. He pointed out that the purpose of the initiative is to mobilize world public opinion, draw attention to the Palestinian issue, and give an impetus to international efforts to defend the rights of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza. The president is also seeking to prepare the environment for holding an international conference for peace in the Middle East, Dr Ghali said.

The Soviet ambassador stated that the deterioration of the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip emphasizes the need to take practical measures to ensure that an international peace conference is held. He stressed that Israel cannot maintain its position as an occupier of Arab territories and that the Palestinian problem cannot be solved through a repressive, iron fist policy. He added that the UN Security Council members are now working on practical measures designed to lead to the holding of an international conference. This is the only way to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict, he said.

USSR Envoy Assails Shamir Stand on Conference

NC010834 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0745 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 1 Feb (MENA)—Soviet Ambassador to Cairo Gennadiy Kirillovich Zhuravlev has attacked Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's stand on the international peace conference, describing it as intransigent and noting that both Egypt and Jordan have explicitly declared their rejection of the autonomy for which Shamir is calling.

The Soviet ambassador has affirmed that President Husni Mubarak's initiative seeks to resolve the Palestinian issue within the framework of an international conference, a step the Soviet Union supports.

In a statement to the Abu Dhabi-based newspaper AL-ITTIHAD, published today, the Soviet diplomat said that his country has always backed proposals for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East. He noted that current events in the occupied Arab territories necessitate a speedy, peaceful settlement in the region.

Salih, Lufti Meet Visiting Albanian Delegation

NC311603 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jan (MENA)—The workers of Egypt and Albania have declared their full support for the struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

In a joint communique issued today at the end of a visit by an Albanian trade union delegation led by Sotir Kocallari, the two countries' workers called on Iraq and Iran to immediately halt the war between them and solve their problems by peaceful means.

The communique, which was signed on behalf of Egypt by Ahmad Ahmad al-'Amani, chairman of the General Federation of Labor Unions, underlined the two parties' solidarity with the Arab peoples that are struggling in defense of freedom and independence. The two parties condemned all racist practices by the racist regime in South Africa and declared their support for the Namibia people's struggle.

The communique noted that the two parties agreed to bolster and strengthen the cordial relations between them, to cooperate in fields of mutual interest, and to exchange expertise, information, delegations, and visits.

The Albanian delegation, which left for Athens today, arrived in Cairo on 21 January. This is the first visit to Egypt by an Albanian trade union delegation in 20 years. During the visit, the delegation met with Consultative Council Speaker Dr 'Ali Lutfi and 'Asim 'Abd al-Haq Salih, minister of manpower and training. It also had a series of meetings with leaders of the General Federation of Labor Unions and visited a number of workers' establishments.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Indian Conference

LD302338 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1805 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Address by leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to the "first international conference of the American Indian nation" in Tripoli on 30 January—live]

[Text] In the name of God. It is a great honor for this land, which is free from imperialist hegemony, to hold the first international conference of the American Indian nation. It is being held to liberate that nation. This moment stresses effectively, and not just through words, the unity of the people who are fighting for freedom. It stresses that freedom is a common cause for all the masses. We would also like to point out now that the so-called free world is merely a myth, a lie, and a perfidy.

The representatives of the American Indian nation represent all Indian tribes; and behind them, the black nation. They have gathered here in order to speak out about their sacred and just cause. The free world is being controlled by the tyrant forces of imperialism. The world should witness that this scene here is a phenomenon that cannot be ignored, a phenomenon against the repression that is being carried out by imperialism, controlling the so-called free world. It is proof of the atrocities being carried out against humans in their native land and birthplaces.

What the American Indian nation is subjected to and what it has suffered in the past is a fact humanity should be ashamed of—Yankee contemporary imperialist leaders' barbarism.

The ugly racial segregation, under which blacks are living in the north of the continent, which is the stronghold of Yankee imperialism, is also evidence of the Yankees' decadence and barbarism, and shows that they are real enemies of humanity, enemies of freedom, and enemies of peace.

At this hour and before this gathering of the American Indian nation, I urge the world conscience to wake up and stand by, with all effectiveness, this torn, tortured, persecuted American Indian nation. I urge it also to stand by another nation that shares the same fate—the nation of blacks in North America who are being subjected to racial segregation, not for a sin they committed, but because Allah created them with a black color, and because the Yankee invaders hunted and captured their fathers and forefathers in their original homeland, the African Continent, and brought them like animals to North America where they used them as slaves. Their

fathers and forefathers were brought like sheep by the Yankee invaders, and now their grandchildren are being tortured and persecuted. World conscience must wake up to condemn the U.S. Yankees in North America, those who have tortured and torn nations.

They are also now committing massacres against the Palestinians in their homeland and expelling them from their land. They drop their bombs and spread destruction over the Lebanese and Syrian people for their support for the Palestinian people and for embracing Palestinian refugees fleeing the racist-Zionist massacres, fleeing the knife of the Americans, the Yankees, the enemies of mankind.

The Yankees have deservedly won mankind's enmity, hatred, and disdain. They are the natural allies of apartheid in South Africa and of Zionism in Palestine. They are the ones who mistreated the American Indian nation and who work for its annihilation and dispersion. They continue these crimes nonstop. They tried to massacre one of the peoples of Southeast Asia, the Vietnamese. But they failed because these people resisted and forced them to return defeated, after having annihilated several million Vietnamese.

The Yankees continue practicing this repugnant method out of their ambition to control the world and become gods on earth. I regret very much having to confirm to the world, through the first international conference of the American Indian nation for liberation, that it is impossible to reach an understanding with the Yankees amicably; it is impossible for a common language to exist between us and them. We are the ones who struggle for freedom and who want to live in peace. After becoming an imperialist force, it is natural for this force to continue its policy of expansion and oppression of others, because this is the only method that suits imperialism. Yankee expansionism does not recognize the rights of others; it recognizes only its right to be in control and dominate. Freedom in the eyes of the Yankees in North America, and in the eyes of their allies, the old neocolonialists and those who follow them, like those who control the British island, means that they alone have freedom to kill others. It means freedom for their trade, to invade world markets, and for all places in the world to become consumer markets for their cheap and base products, which do not stave off hunger or make one fat.

We are not doing the Yankees an injustice. They in fact represent a historical reality and a phenomenon which has been proved by history. Before them was Nazism, which intended to transform the world into a vital sphere, and thus it ignored the right of others to live and to exist. This land, on which your first conference is being held, was reached by the Nazi vital sphere. The Nazis fought on it with the ambition of annexing it to their vital sphere beyond the sea. Before them history has known another repulsive phenomenon, fascism, which fought on this land, killed its people, expelled them, and unjustly proclaimed its annexation to Rome.

The phenomenum of barbarism and savage expansion, and the removal of others from their lands, is a proven fact in the history of humanity. When barbarism swept Europe from the north and destroyed it, the Vandal tribes were forced to invade the north of Africa and control it, leaving Europe for the savages who came from the north.

Now, regrettably, we are facing a natural historical phenomenon—imperialism. And just as Hulagu, Hitler, Mussolini, and (Doker) led these barbaric campaigns throughout the world and unjustly swept across it, the Yankees from North America are leading this new barbaric campaign during the contemporary history of humanity. Just as the peoples invaded by those barbarous campaigns in the past were unable to find a common understanding with those expansionists by peaceful means, we are unable now to find a peaceful means for common understanding with the expansionist Yankees.

Regrettably, we have to announce that imperialism's mischief cannot be avoided except by resistance and the use of force. We have found the way to resist it. The American Indian nation first has the right to avenge its history, and avenge its forefathers and fathers, who were annihilated at the Yankees' hands in the same manner as a savage animal is annihilated at the hands of hunger. Furthermore, this fragmented nation has the right to live united and peacefully on its land, which used to be its property before the invasion of the white Yankees to the American Continent. It was very fortunate that the American Indians' survival instinct triumphed over the Yankees' annihilation instinct, when they fled to the southern continent, to the central continent, and to Canada, in order to preserve the existence of this nation. We thank God that thousands of millions of American Indians are still alive.

The United States spends huge amounts of money each year to transport world Jewry to Palestine so that they may form for it a new American state in the Middle East, as well as a permanent base there. How can the United States do such a thing and say that the Jews—who, it claims, are dispersed everywhere—have the right to return to Palestine although the latter is not their land? It says, moreover, that all Jews, wherever they are, must be gathered on one land—this is what Britain did in 1948 when Palestine was under its mandate—and then denies such rights to the American Indian nation, preventing it from regrouping, not allowing it to return to its native homeland. We are now going through the stage of self-determination: The American Indian nation should decide its own fate by returning to its own native homeland in North America.

We have a base in North America—about 6 million American Indians. The American Indians have to recover their ancestors' land in conformity with the principle of self-determination, which is decided by the United Nations. The struggle should start now to set up a state for American Indians in North America. The

southern states of the United States of America constitute the land of the American Indians' ancestors. A state for American Indians should be set up in California, Chicago, Texas, and Mexico. This is the right to self-determination. This is the right for the return of a nation which was forced to emigrate.

American Indians should unite along this path in history and destiny with the nation of the black Americans, who also have the right to establish their state on the North American land. North America should be divided, at the minimum, between three nations. Three states should arise on it: the American Indian nation, the black American nation, and the remaining white population, who should have returned to Europe and left the American Continent to the original inhabitants. [audience applauds, chants slogans]

We believe in the right to self-determination. It is the right of American Indians to raise their case at the UN General Assembly and to all international institutions, in order to claim their right to self-determination.

It is also the right of black Americans to approach the United Nations with a demand for self-determination. It is the right of all oppressed groups in the United States to demand self-determination. It is in the interest of world peace and freedom and in the interest of mankind's survival that imperialist Yankee domination of earth should end because its existence constitutes a catastrophic danger to peace, freedom, and mankind's survival.

The American Indians, blacks, and others will provide a historic service to mankind and the cause of freedom and peace if they contribute to the weakening and ending of Yankee imperialism in North America. All people will stand by you, and mankind will breathe a sigh of relief when they feel that the grave threat of imperialism over the other continents has declined as a result of the preoccupation and weakness within the U.S. continent [as heard], as a result of the American Indian nation's demanding the right to self-determination and the establishment of a state for themselves in the southern part of the United States, and as a result of black Americans' demand for a state for themselves in the United States.

In order to achieve this, there should be an alliance with liberation movements in South America, because the fate of the South American peoples and that of the American Indian nation and the black nation in North America is one. On this the glorious struggle of the American Indian nation should be based. It should establish a natural alliance with its natural allies, with the peoples struggling for freedom, with the peoples threatened by U.S. imperialism, with the peoples of South America who are controlled by the fascism imposed by U.S. Yankee imperialism, and with the black nation suffering from racial discrimination in North America. The Palestinian people, too, would be a natural ally for the struggle of the American Indians, the blacks, and the peoples of South and Central America who consider U.S. Yankee imperialism a common enemy.

The Arab nation, like you, will be a victim of Yankee imperialist expansion. The imperialist expansionist policy aims at annihilating the Arab nation as they annihilated the American Indian nation. What they did to you, they intend to do to us: a policy of annihilation, genocide, and usurping the land. This is not a myth. This is a historical fact. The Yankees have no conscience because of the nature of their aggressive structure. They distributed blankets infested with smallpox microbes among the American Indians in order to annihilate them collectively. They treated them as if they were animals in a jungle. They cut down the trees and burned the forests in order to make the American Indians leave their land. This is the secret of their dispersement everywhere on the U.S. continent.

Libya is the international haven for combatting imperialism, Zionism, racism, fascism, and reaction. The forces fighting this dirty alliance headed by imperialism have chosen Libya as their haven. This was decided on 1 May 1981, when more than 100 popular revolutionary progressive movements and governments formed this international leadership of liberation movements and revolutionary countries, which struggle against imperialism, racism, Zionism, fascism, and reaction. They formed a political secretariat in this international haven of Libya. The number of liberation movements and progressive countries which have joined the international haven has since increased. It now includes more than 300 members; more than 300 liberation movements and progressive countries are members of this haven.

The founding conference was held in 1981 and the second conference was held in 1986. Other regional conferences were held in various parts of the world; some were for movements in the Pacific Ocean, African movements, Asian movements, and American movements, in addition to the general conference that included all of these groups. Consequently, the world popular front was created, and all liberation movements around the world became members of this center, and all the progressive states that were liberated from the control of imperialism, fascism, racism, and reaction became members. The American Indian nation, with all its institutions, must take the front seat, along with the nation of blacks in the United States.

Today is a historical day in the lives of the American Indian nation, in the lives of world liberation movements, and in the history of humanity, which aspires toward peace, freedom, and survival.

When the issues, institutions, and organizations of the American Indian nation meet on Libyan soil at the international center, it is not to listen to my speech or to converse with the Libyans; it is to converse among yourselves, to listen to yourselves, because it is hard for

you to find a free land that will allow this meeting, providing you with a historic opportunity to unite your forces in the confrontation with the Yankees and to be determined in deciding your destiny.

All progressive countries are threatened by U.S. imperialism. Therefore, they fear hosting such an international conference. Libya is also threatened by imperialism, but the difference is that Libya is a Jamahiriyah that has no government that can be under U.S. control or that is subject to change; there is only the people who rule it by themselves. It is the state of the masses, where the people govern themselves through the people's congresses and the people's committees. It is the foundation stone in the era of the masses, and consequently it is the right of masses the world over to seek refuge in the land of the masses, the land of the Libyan Jamahiriyah. [chants]

It is the masses' right to come to the masses' land and to the masses state, which is the Libyan Jamahiriyah, to determine their destiny, to meet, to organize their ranks, and to begin the battle. This might give responsibilities to Libya, but the Libyan people, when they took power, declared the Jamahiriyah. Congresses and committees were then set up everywhere, and they decided in a historic document that its land is open to all combatants for freedom, that it shoulders the consequences of this stand, and that it will fight for freedom everywhere in the world, because the freedom issue is indivisible.

On the other hand, the Libyan people paid the price of this historic commitment before the other people of the world, for the liberation movements and the freedom fighters. U.S. imperialists committed aggression against it with scores of aircraft, raiding streets, houses, killing women, men, and children. It raided hospitals, schools, and the Libyan people paid the price. Consequently, after paying that price, it cannot hesitate to get what it paid for, which is victory for freedom and the defeat of imperialism, the common enemy of us all.

Thus, the Libyan people are practicing their duty in the fight by hosting the first international congress of American Indians; to face up to imperialism, determine their destiny, and try to establish a state, an independant nation in North America, in conformity with the right of self-determination. If this is not achieved peacefully, it will have to be achieved by force, and by a long and tenacious fight.

By our determination and our tangible and concrete action, we might contribute to changing the imperialist U.S. Yankee mentality; to make them understand their barbarous policy of extermination, invasion, and aggression; of force, arms, and blood; of siege, boycott, and onslaught; of arrogance, hegemony, and haughtiness; of looking down on mankind and people and their right to have a peaceful and worthy life on earth. It might understand that their savage and barbarous style will not achieve its goals. It will not get what it aims for. It brought utter defeat on itself when it practiced this style in Vietnam. It did not achieve what it wanted in Veitnam, such as making Vietnam a region of U.S. influence. Now it wants to subdue the free Nicaraguan people, and to force it to submit to its orders and obey them.

We must all stand on the side of the resisting and courageous Nicaraguan people to defeat imperialism.

We should not leave the brave people of Nicaragua alone. We should not leave them to fall. The imperialist American policy of aggression must fall through the victory of the people of Nicaragua over the insolent arrogant challenge of the imperialist Yankees. The victory of the Nicaraguan people in that battle is a victory and example for all peoples which are exposed, and will be exposed, to the same fate. We have to insist on victory of the Nicaraguan people, and on Cuba remaining free and independent, despite the American Yankees.

We also have to struggle for the restoration of a position which has fallen—Grenada—so that it will return as a free independent position. We have to ally ourselves with the force of peace, socialism, and progress everywhere in the world, forces who are struggling with us against imperialism, and with whom we are united with joint aims of peace, progress, and ending imperialism and exploitation.

Imperialism must be besieged. The peoples are able to besiege it, as they besieged and forced the collapse of Nazism and fascism. The forces of socialism and liberation in the world are a strong and solid link in the chain of international siege. These links should be formed of our people and our liberation movements in order to besiege the Yankee American imperialism and the hated racism. This is not impossible. Those who fight for freedom, who have lost their land, and who are not afraid to lose anything, are more able to continue the struggle than those who have usurped this land and established institutions on it, and who are afraid that they might be destroyed. When the imperialists fight, they always look behind their backs because they are afraid for their sensitive institutions, their skyscrapers, their nuclear power stations, their electronic industrial complexes, their huge critical industries, and for their markets, to whom they export their miserable products. As for us, the people who lost their lands—and they are trying to make us lose our lives and existence—when we fight we do not look back, because we are not afraid of anything behind us. Therefore, we are more courageous in battle and are able to continue the battle, however long. Therefore, we will be victorious.

March forward; the struggle continues.

Reaction to VOA Commentary Reported

JANA Editor Rebuts Comments

LD291502 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] Voice of America, which expresses the official views of the U.S. Administration, said in a commentary that U.S.-Egyptian views coincided on what it called

confronting the Libyan danger. This commentary occurred on the occasion of the presence of the head of the Egyptian regime in Washington. JANA's political editor has commented on this as follows:

This commentary, which expresses U.S. views, confirms that the visit currently paid by the head of the Egyptian regime to Washington is in reality a conspiracy against the Libyan Arab people and an attempt to put the finishing touches on a terrorist conspiracy against them.

The editor wondered: What kind of danger do the Libyan Arab people constitute if they stay within their borders, unless the existence of the Libyans on their land in itself now constitutes a danger from the viewpoint of the United States and the Egyptian regime. In this case, the editor stressed, the so-called confrontation of Libyan danger does not mean anything but a military aggression prepared by the United States and its agent against the Libyan Arab people.

The editor asserted that the resumption of relations with the Egyptian regime by a number of Arab governments cannot be interpreted except as support for the aggressive schemes against the fraternal Libyan Arab people. Therefore, he said, we have the right to wonder what the Libyan Arab people did to these regimes to make them give this support to a regime which openly announces that it is preparing an aggressive scheme against the Libyan Arab people, under the cover of what the United States and that regime called the confrontation of the Libyan danger.

Yesterday, a VOA commentary, which expresses U.S. views, talked about what it described as the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. The commentary said that the U.S. Administration and the Egyptian regime agree on ending what they called Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

JANA's international affairs editor wondered about this in his commentary:

What does the presence of U.S. and French forces in Chad mean? How can the United States allow itself to call for withdrawing Soviet forces from Afghanistan while ignoring the presence of its forces and the French forces in Chad?

The editor pointed out that all the U.S. claims collapse. If the United States claims that there is an agreement with the Ndjamena gang, then the Soviet forces are present at the request of the Afghan Government. The U.S. and French forces face resistance, just as the Soviet forces do.

Arab Diplomats Briefed

LD301412 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] The Popular Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has summoned the brother heads of the Arab political missions in the Great Jamahiriyah and acquainted them with the hostile intentions which the U.S. Administration, along with the Egyptian regime, is plotting against the Libyan Arab people. This was revealed in a commentary by the Voice of America—the voice which expresses the U.S. Government's views—confirming the identity of views of the head of the U.S. Administration and the head of the Egyptian regime concerning what is called confronting the Libyan danger.

The popular committee stressed to the brother heads of the Arab political missions that this stance reveals that the U.S. Administration and the head of the Egyptian regime are planning aggression against the Libyan Arab regime. The Popular Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison asked the brother heads of the Arab political missions to convey this to their governments.

'Strong Protest' to Envoy

LD311859 Tripoli JANA in English 1803 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, Ayn al-Nar [January] 31, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has summoned today the ambassador of Belgium in Great al-Jamahiriyah.

He was handed a note of strong protest addressed to the U.S. Government over what has been said in the commentary of the Voice of America on Friday expressing the viewpoint of the U.S. Government over what it describes as the identical viewpoints between the head of U.S. Administration and the head of the Egyptian regime on what this radio calls confronting the Libyan danger.

This note stresses that this stance reveals a hostile scheme being prepared in coordination between the U.S. Administration and the Egyptian regime against the people of Great al-Jamahiriyah.

Funeral for Diplomat Killed in Nigeria

LD291228 Tripoli JANA in English 1146 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, Ayn al-Nar [January] [no day as received], JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The masses of the Basic People's Congress in the municipality of Marzuq joined the funeral procession of the martyr Lt. Colonel Abu Bakr Kanna assassinated in Nigeria by the terrorist criminal regime of Ndjamena.

Present at the procession were, the secretariat of the congresses from the Marzuq, Sabha and Wadi al Hiat [name as received], the Nigerian state minister for foreign affairs, the delegation accompanying him, members of diplomatic missions in the Jamahiriyah and the family of the martyr.

The secretary of the People's Congress of Marzuq municipality gave a speech of mourning starting it by reciting a verse from the holy Koran saying that those who are killed in the way of serving God are alive.

He says that today we say good-bye to a dutiful son of our good land whose people are waging the fight of confrontation to stress its existence to be free from chains and bondage.

The martyr Abu Bakr Suleyman Kanna, he adds, was committed to the great Al-Fatih revolution and its thoughts.

We will not budge from our firm stand by this revolution.

His martyrdom was a confirmation of his commitment to the principles of the revolution.

Those who killed him while he was on duty serving his country, revolution and nation are criminals.

The killers showed their true colour by murdering him. They are prejudiced and their hands are blood-stained. They are not grateful for the land that gave them refuge, for they have no honour being puppets to their masters.

The Libyans should bear in mind that there are dangers posed against their country.

There are dangerous [words indistinct] the seeds of death and destruction among our people.

These Libyans before this large number of the diplomatic corps accredited to Great al-Jamahiriyah and before a minister from Nigeria point with their fingers accusing the clique in Ndjamena of this cowardly act. This clique is like bats lurking in the dark cowardly and in a vile manner sowing the seeds of death among innocent people.

The Libyans in this gathering are wondering what political or moral value can be gained from any relations with this gang of criminals who are an insult to humanity.

To sever relations with Ndjamena's gang and to isolate it is the best thing that could be applied at the present time.

We bury you martyr as a son, and a dear brother. The comrades will remember you as part of their struggle. You left this land as a hero and now you return as a martyr. Your brothers in the struggle will never forget you. Rest in peace.

The honoury president of the diplomatic corps in the Jamahiriyah made a speech condemning the Ndjamena's gang for commiting such a malicious and evil crime. We deplore that strongly, he said.

The martyr fell while carrying out his duties, he added, his country and people will never forget him.

The diplomatic corps president then offered his deep condolences to the martyr's family, may God bless his soul, he concluded.

The Nigerian state minister for foreign affairs gave a speech saying that the news of the martyrdom of Lt. Colonel Kanna has stunned the people and Government of Nigeria.

He stresses that his government has formed a committee to investigate this sad incident. The results of this investigation will be handed to the leader of the revolution and the masses of the basic peoples congresses.

We, he adds, as Muslims entreat Allah to bless the soul of this martyr and to give solace and consolation to his family.

We stress that this crime will not get off scotfree.

Statement Issued on Arms in Northern Ireland

LD312317 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1854 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, 31 Jan (JANA)—In response to the statement made by the British minister of state for Northern Ireland affairs, the reports carried by the British media on the discovery of arms on the northern coast of Ireland, and the allegation that these arms came from Libya, a source at the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has made the following statement:

"First: The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison denies that the Great Jamahiriyah has any link with the arms which were discovered on the north coast of Northern Ireland, contrary to what is alleged in the statements made by some British officials and in the reports carried by the British media on this subject.

"Second: In harmony with its stand on the cause of freedom, the Great Jamahiriyah supports the struggle of the Irish people for their liberation from colonial domination.

"Third: British colonialism in Ireland is an old colonial problem which the Irish have lived and fought to deliver themselves from for over half a century. Instead of looking at the problem in its historical, political, and religious framework, the British Government tries to

find excuses and reasons to involve others in order to avoid facing a rejected reality which it is trying to impose on the Irish people by force.

"Fourth: Implicating the name of the Jamahiriyah is in fact only part of a general plan which the United States and its satellite Britain are trying to promote, in order to conceal their involvement in executing policies aimed at oppressing peoples and colonizing them.

"The Great Jamahiriyah is indeed eager to reinforce and develop cooperation and friendship with Ireland and to create opportunities which will help further the two countries' interests to the best advantage of their peoples, and away from the pressures of external powers."

Briefs

Petrochemical Exports Increase

Tripoli, 30 Jan (JANA)—The Great Jamahiriyah has achieved an increase in its petrochemical exports for the 1987 production year. The exports of methanol, ammonia, and urea amounted to 1,386,972 metric [unit not further specified] and were sent to 22 countries, including 4 countries to whom we were exporting for the first time: Hong Kong, the Philippines, Colombia, and Peru. This is a 6% increase over the previous year.

In today's issue, AL-MUNTIJUN reported that according to National Petrochemical Company sources at Marsa al-Burayqah, the Great Jamahiriyah is at the forefront of countries exporting methanol to various EEC countries. This was revealed in the international annual report about the methanol industry in 1987. [Text] [*Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 30 Jan 88 LD*]

Sudan

Sanadah Returns From Arab League Session

EA301529 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2130 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Ma'mun Sanadah returned to Khartoum today after leading a Sudanese delegation to the meetings of the extraordinary session of the Arab League Council at the foreign ministerial level. The meeting was held in Tunis 23-24 January in response to a request by the Government of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah to discuss the Palestinian people's uprising and the Zionist enemy's actions in the occupied Arab territories.

Dr Ma'mun Sanadah confirmed the stand of Sudan and its government and people in support of the uprising of the Palestinian people and its condemnation of all the suppressive practices of the Zionist regime. Dr Sanadah added that the suffering of the Palestinian people inside the camps and the necessity of supplying urgent aid from the international community to provide relief to the Palestinians were discussed. He pointed out that solving the problem of the Palestinian people not only lies in organizing relief, but also in finding a political solution. [passage omitted]

Further on Investigation Into Death of Al-Hakim

Iraqi Envoy Denies BBC Report

JN301149 Khartoum SUNA in English 1050 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, Jan 30 (SUNA)—The Iraqi ambassador to Sudan has denied the information broadcast by the B.B.C. yesterday on the taking off of an airplane belonging to the Iraqi Airways from Khartoum Airport after 40 minutes from the assassination of the Iraqi Shi'ite opposition leader Mahdi al-Hakim occurred recently at Khartoum Hilton Hotel. [sentence as received]

He confirmed that the airplane had taken off before an hour and half from the incident describing the B.B.C as adopting an anti-Arab policy.

Two Officials Resume Work

JN301824 Khartoum SUNA in English 1740 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, Jan 30 (SUNA)—The two senior Foreign Ministry officials who were stopped from work by Foreign Minister Dr Ma'mun Sanadah after the assassination of Iraqi opposition leader Al-Hakim in Khartoum have resumed work today.

The officials were [the] deputy under secretary of Foreign Ministry and the director of consulate administration.

Sanadah said that he did not stop them from work but they were set in a vacation till investigation conducted to know the procedures of giving the assassinated Shi'ite leader an entry visa to Sudan. [sentence as received]

After "I was got acquainted with all documents, I asked them to resume work" Sanadah said adding that a communique will be issued later in this respect.

Israeli General Lectures Garang Officers

JN311227 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1025 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, 31 Jan (SUNA)—The well-known Israeli General Hayim Erez visited the battlefronts in the southern region last week and gave military guidance through lectures to the officers of the renegade Garang.

This was disclosed by a highly placed military source in the southern region in a statement to AL-USBU' published here this morning.

The Israeli mercenary general had held secret talks with Garang representative Lieutenant Colonel Lam Akol in a place not specified by the source before his departure to the battlefronts. He offered the sale of 100 Soviet-made tanks, which the Israeli forces had captured during their invasion of Lebanon last year.

The mercenary Israeli general also offered to facilitate a deal between Garang's movement and a well known U.S. company controlled by Jewish capital. The deal is for $8 million worth of heavy military equipment.

Anya Nya II Denies Reported Merger With SPLA

EA301843 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Brothers and sisters, sons and daughters of the south, and all sons of Sudan in the north and south, east and west: Muhammad Chuol is greeting you on behalf of the higher command of the Anya Nya II movement.

Today we are presenting to you the statement of the Anya Nya II military command under the command of acting commander in chief, Brigadier Paulino Matib, issued after its meeting. We are presenting this important statement in view of the deception of the citizens by Garang's movement in its recent attempts to mislead the Anya Nya II leaders by saying that Anya Nya II had signed an agreement and would join with the SPLA in striking our brothers in the Armed Forces and fighting the people who want peace in Sudan. The following is his statement:

To the masses of the Sudanese people, to the local and foreign news agencies, to our companions on the path of struggle in the Armed Forces and the other regular forces: At this critical time in the history of the Sudanese people's struggle, some foreign states have attempted to woo the Anya Nya II leadership, at times through contact with these leaders, and at other times through contacts with the movement's leaders in other regions.

As you know, brothers, at the present stage our forces have achieved effective victories in foiling all the attempts of Garang's movement to capture some areas in the south. The contact that took place with Anya Nya II leader Major General Gordon Kong Chuol is considered void and baseless. The leadership has not delegated authority to this leader to contact Garang's movement.

A. We stress our adherence to the cease-fire agreement between Anya Nya II and the Peoples Armed Forces.

B. Regarding the coordination between the Sudanese Government and the Anya Nya II forces, we in the leadership are demanding that the government reach a military and political agreement in order to secure a course of action in the near future.

C. The Anya Nya II leadership under the command of Brigadier Paulino Matib, the acting commander in chief, and all unit commands will confront any attempt at incorporation, including fighting alongside our brothers in the Armed Forces.

D. Any agreement concluded will be an individual agreement and is not binding on the movement.

E. Anya Nya II will make the necessary arrangements to secure the unity of Sudan and especially of the south.

F. The Sudanese Government must demonstrate its cooperation with the Anya Nya II leaders and provide its direct support, especially in view of the attempted persuasion of the movement by certain socialist states.

G. The leaders of the movement will carry out their duties fully during this stage.

H. Those who have joined Garang will not affect the path of the movement politically, militarily, or morally, especially as far as the country's security is concerned.

Long live Anya Nya II and long live Sudan! [passage omitted]

SPLA Reports 50 Government Troops Killed

EA301807 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Twenty-six soldiers of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi have been killed when the lorry they were traveling in detonated a land mine planted by SPLA forces of Bee Battalion at Khawr Adh Dhahab on Qaysan-Damazin road in southern Blue Nile on 14 January 1988. [Our] correspondent says that the remnants of the land mine blast, about 31 of them, were later killed in an inspection operation conducted by field commander, Captain (Yang Chol Duor). [passage omitted]

Ghabbush Denounces Call For Tribal Militias

JN302043 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1750 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 30 Jan (SUNA)—Sudanese National Party leader Father Philip 'Abbas Ghabbush has strongly denounced the call by Mathew Abor, chairman of the Council of the South, to form new tribal militias. He described this call as serious and constituting a true threat to the country's security. He said that this call will paralyze all efforts to achieve peace in the country. [passage omitted]

In another development, Ghabbush denied activity by the rebel movement in southern Kurdofan. He said that Garang's movement cannot operate in this region at this time of the year because there is not enough foliage to

serve as camouflage. He also denied reports that the city of Kaduqli, the capital of southern Kordofan, is being besieged from two sides as some newspapers have recently said.

Western Sahara

Saharan Forces Reportedly Attack Moroccans

LD302237 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] With regard to the Moroccan-Saharan war, fighting took place this morning in the Oum Draiga area. Saharan fighters attacked the positions of Moroccan occupation troops on a 15-km front. In doing so, the Saharan fighters naturally had to overcome Moroccan mines and radar. It has been affirmed by the Saharan side that many Moroccan soldiers were killed and that a detailed communique will be published later.

Moroccan Troops 'Chased'

LD311236 Algiers APS in English 1114 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Sadr (L.T.), 31/1/88 (APS)—A number of soldiers of the Moroccan Army were put out of fight during an attack led by the Saharan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) on Saturday early morning against Moroccan occupation forces in the sector of Oum Draiga, a communique from the Saharan Ministry of Information announced.

In [words indistinct] of the intervention of reinforcements of the Moroccan Army coming from neighbour [words indistinct], the SPLA "invested and occupied a part of 15 kms of the Moroccan 'fence wall' and chased the monarchist troops inside their own sectors", the communique added.

During this attack, the SPLA also imprisoned several Moroccan soldiers and destroyed an important quantity of war material, the communique pointed out.

200 Disabled, 18 Captured

LD312236 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] The Saharan Ministry of Information has announced that 200 members of the Moroccan occupation forces were disabled during an operation carried out yesterday morning in the Oum Draiga sector. The Saharan fighters succeeded in breaking through the Moroccan military wall over a distance of 15 km. At the end of the fighting, which lasted 3 hours, 18 Moroccan soldiers were taken prisoner. Military equipment was also recovered, including two recoilless 106-mm guns.

Bahrain

Interior Ministry on 2 Men Sentenced in Cyprus

JN311648 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Manama, Jan 31 (GNA)—The state of Bahrain affirmed anew that the two men who were sentenced by a Cypriot court for firing on a British Army vehicle in Cyrpus are not Bahraini nationals.

An official source at the Bahraini Interior Ministry said today that a check on registrations at the immigration and passports directorate shows the two men are not Bahraini and that their passports are forged.

He added the Ministry of Interior earlier issued a statement denying the two men were Bahraini citizens and stressing that their passports were false.

Amir Returns From Visit to Saudi Arabia

JN311619 Manama WAKH in English 1552 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Manama, Jan 31 (GNA)—H.H the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman al Khalifah returned home via King Fahd causeway today.

He was accompanied by the Deputy Amir of Eastern Province in Saudi Arabia Prince Fahd ibn Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

H.H the amir was received by Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the crown prince and commander-in-chief of BDF [Bahraini Defense Forces] Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah and other ministers.

Kuwait

French Minister Holds News Conference on Visit

JN301710 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 28-29 Jan 88 p 4

[By Jadranka Porter]

[Text] French Economy and Finance Minister Edouard Balladur reiterated his country's support for Kuwait and other GCC countries in defusing the tension in the region and restoring peace and stability.

Speaking at a news conference at the conclusion of his two-day visit to Kuwait, Balladur said France's support to Kuwait could also include supply of arms. "France is open to all areas of cooperation," the minister remarked.

During his stay in Kuwait the minister was received by HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al 'Abdallah. He also held talks with the Deputy Premier and Foreign minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad and the Finance minister, Jasim al-Kharafi.

Asked about his country's latest relationship with Iran the minister denied there was a change in Paris' attitude towards the Tehran regime. Balladur implied that recent reports about a rapproachement between the government of Jacques Chirac and Iranian leadership, following the release of two French hostages from Lebanon, were rumours.

Balladur said that France and Kuwait sealed a six-point economic cooperation agreement to step up investments between the two countries and promote technical cooperation in the field of finance and telecommunications.

The agreement was hammered out during a meeting on Tuesday between the Kuwaiti-French economic commission chaired jointly by Balladur and Al-Kharafi.

The plan calls for an increase in Kuwaiti imports from France to compensate for higher French imports of Kuwaiti oil.

Balladur cited the strength of the French currency as an incentive for Kuwaiti investments in France.

The commission meets alternatively in Paris and Kuwait every year to review the economic ties between the two countries.

Before flying to Kuwait on Tuesday Balladur told reporters in Dubai that France was the driving force behind the proposed talks between the European Economic Community and the Gulf Cooperation Council, expected to take place shortly.

"France realised that the age of exchanging only one product with the Gulf countries has gone, and we are living in the age of diversifying trade exchange" Balladur said. He stressed that "France would also speed up these talks until crowned with success."

Balladur later arrived in Amman from Kuwait. In Amman he said he would assure his hosts that Paris was committed to an international Middle East peace conference.

Saudi Arabia

Iranian Produce Reportedly Turned Back at Border

NC301815 Paris AFP in English 1802 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Dubayy, United Arab Emirates, Jan 30 (AFP)—Saudi border guards have begun turning back trucks loaded with Iranian produce exported through this United Arab Emirates (UAE) port, wholesalers here said Saturday.

The Dubayy merchants added that fruit and vegetable prices on local markets had plunged since the trucks began returning Friday evening.

Riyadh has not officially announced a ban on Iranian produce, though the English-language daily KHALIJ TIMES said merchants had expected the embargo to start in February based on warnings from their Saudi trading partners.

Dubayy, a major Gulf re-export center, acts as the main conduit for Iranian goods to Arab countries.

In 1986, the UAE port re-exported 124 million dirhams (34 million dollars) worth of Iranian produce and live animals toward Saudi Arabia, according to the daily.

Iranian-Saudi relations have been severely strained since the July 31 incidents in the Moslem holy city of Mecca, where 402 people died in violence that followed a demonstration by Iranian pilgrims, according to a Saudi toll. However tension had appeared to ease earlier this month when a UAE envoy representing the Gulf Cooperation Council, of which Saudi Arabia is the leading member, held talks with Iranian officials in a bid to end the Iran-Iraq war.

Shevardnadze Reportedly Invited for Talks

JN311804 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 30 Jan 88 pp 1, 8

[Excerpt] Moscow—AL-ITTIHAD and news agencies—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal's talks with his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, have focused on the issue of resuming diplomatic relations between the two parties. Reliable sources have informed AL-ITTIHAD that the Saudi side has invited Shevardnadze to visit Saudi Arabia to discuss this issue. The invitation was extended during a session that lasted 4 and 1/2 hours.

The two sides devoted the largest portion of their important talks to discussing the situation in the Arabian Gulf, the Afghan issue, and developments in the Iraq-Iran war. Soviet sources said that the two sides had agreed on several points with regard to the implementation of Resolution 598. They also agreed on "international emergency forces to protect shipping in the Gulf if necessary". [passage omitted]

King Fahd Receives Visiting Amir of Bahrain

LD302226 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Excerpt] The custodian of the two holy mosques Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, may God protect him, received Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, at his residence in Hafr al-Batin this evening. The meeting was precipitated by the passing of his highness in the area of Hafr al-Batin, where he is spending some time in the Kingdom's northern regions. [passage omitted]

Amir of Bahrain Departs

LD311538 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1420 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Al-Khubar, 31 Jan (SPA)—His Highness Shaykh 'isa ibn Salman al Khalifah, Amir of Bahrain, left the Kingdom for Bahrain via the King Fahd causeway this afternoon after having spent some time in the Kingdom's northern regions.

His Highness, the amir of the fraternal State of Bahrain, was seen off by His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy amir of the Eastern Region, as well as a number of civilian and military officials.

United Arab Emirates

President To Visit Iran in 'Next Few Days'

JN011419 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Quoting Arab diplomatic sources in Beirut, the Lebanese newspaper AL-SAFIR affirms that Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, will visit Tehran in the next few days, having received an official invitation to visit Iran. The newspaper adds that the visit will take place following Syria's efforts to improve relations between Tehran and the Arabian Gulf capitals.

Yemen Arab Republic

Hungarian Official Arrives in Sanaa 29 Jan

JN291735 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] Gyula Horn, state secretary at the Hungarian Foreign Ministry, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Sanaa today on a 3-day visit to our country. His trip is part of an exchange of visits being made by officials from the two countries to develop relations in various spheres, Horn told SABA'. He will be holding talks with Foreign Ministry officials on regional and world issues of mutual interest, he added.

On hand to welcome him were Ahmad al-Iryani, Foreign Ministry under secretary, and Yahya al-Wazir, deputy director of the Europe and Americas desk at the ministry.

Official Talks Held

JN301337 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] An official round of talks was held between a YAR delegation led by Ahmad al-Iryani, Foreign Ministry under secretary, and a Hungarian delegation led by Gyula Horn, state secretary at the Foreign Ministry, this morning. They discussed bilateral relations and ways to develop them in the mutual interest of both countries.

They also exchanged views on regional and international issues, including the Middle East and the Palestinian cause.

Received by Foreign Minister

JN311432 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member, received Gyula Horn, state secretary in the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, today. During their meeting, they discussed economic, cultural, and scientific relations and ways to promote and enhance them. They also reviewed a number of regional and international issues of mutual interest. The meeting was attended by Brother Ahmad al-Iryani, Foreign Ministry under secretary, and members of the Hungarian delegation accompanying Gyula Horn.

Saddam Husayn Presides Over Cabinet Meeting

JN311542 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] President Saddam Husayn has presided over a meeting of the Council of Ministers. The meeting discussed issues and topics on its agenda and made the necessary decisions about them. The meeting was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president; the RCC members; the Ba'th Party Regional Command members; the head of the president's office; the ministers; and a number of state officials.

'Aziz Leaves on 'Working Visit' to USSR 1 Feb

JN011216 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Feb (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left for Moscow today on a working visit to the USSR. During the visit Tariq 'Aziz will hold talks with Soviet officials on relations between the two countries, the ongoing Iranian aggression against Iraq, and the current deliberations at the UN Security Council in light of Iran's rejection of Resolution 598, which calls for an end to the war.

USSR's Pallayev-Led Delegation Arrives 31 Jan

JN010750 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0718 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Feb (INA)—Gaibnazar Pallayev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Baghdad last night on a visit of several days to Iraq. Gaibnazar will hold talks with Iraqi officials on bilateral relations and ways to develop them, particularly in the parliamentary field.

Al-Shar's Tehran Visit: 'Plotting Against Iraq'

JN311705 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1625 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, 31 Jan (INA)—Tehran radio today cited Faruq al-Shar', Syria's foreign minister, as saying the Syrian-Iranian relations are "strategic." Al-Shar' added that he had conveyed "warm greetings" from Hafiz al-Asad to Khamene'i.

Al-Shar' is visiting Iran within the framework of Syrian moves aimed at breaking the isolation around the Iranian regime and plotting against Iraq and pan-Arab security by direct coordination with Tehran.

Al-Shar' said Khamene'i had asked him to convey warm greetings to Hafiz al-Asad.

Relations between the Syrian and Iranian regimes were activated following the extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman early November with the aim of foiling the summit resolutions and undermining the positive results of the summit in terms of strengthening Arab solidarity in confronting the Iranian aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation.

Commentary Criticizes Al-Asad, Syria-Iran Ties

JN302000 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1710 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Arab brothers everywhere: More than one chance was given to the Syrian regime in the hope that it would return to its senses, refrain from its evil, and get out of the quagmire in which it had become sunk up to its ears. Nevertheless, it wasted all chances for curing a malady that is no longer secret to anyone. Its nature is to be nurtured on evil and vice; its history abounds with crimes; it has sold its honor in the slave market and cashed its price in billions at the expense of the Arab nation and its fateful issues. It is the qualities of treason and treachery on which the Syrian regime's President Hafiz al-Asad and his likes were brought up, and the one who is brought up in such a way will never change his habits. This is the case with the Damascus rulers, allies of Zionism and racist Persians.

Hafiz al-Asad, the sly maneuverer, knows when to bend to the storm and to Arab unanimity and when to evade them in his well-known fashion. Therefore, when the Arab leaders faced him with a unified stand toward the nation's causes that were listed on the agenda of the recent extraordinary summit in Amman, he found himself forced to accept what they decided, looking forward to the funds he might obtain as a price for his silence and agreement. However, he unequivocally and shamelessly disavowed all that he said and approved. These are the qualities of renegade traitors who deny the rights of their kinflok and nation.

God stands witness that we have never been disillusioned about Hafiz al-Asad, for we knew that something fishy was behind his evil stands. However, out of our desire to maintain Arab unanimity and solidarity and so that nothing unpleasant would be said about us, we decided to accept what the Arab leaders decided and give Hafiz al-Asad and his regime a new opportunity to test their intentions, although deep down we felt no hope should be pinned on this regime which had joined the enemies and severed all relations with its nation. He extended bridges of friendship, cooperation, and alliance with the enemies in total disregard of all the Amman summit resolutions. He has thus confirmed our words and expectations that his is a conspiratorial and treacherous regime with neither honor nor conscience. This regime has become accustomed to charlatanism, deception, and playing on ropes. It enjoys sleeping only in brackish water, and meeting only with the wicked and those who shed blood—the Zionists of Tehran and Tel Aviv. Since the Amman summit all events have categorically and tangibly confirmed that the Syrian regime is

absolutely uninterested in implementing any Arab resolution or respecting any of the fixed rules of joint Arab action and the considerations of supreme pan-Arab security. It no longer possesses the minimum level of commitment to Arab values nor the ethics a responsible person should enjoy in dealing with the Arab nation's fateful issues.

Faruq al-Shar', Hafiz al-Asad's foreign minister, is preparing to visit his allies in Tehran in order to convey a to Khamene'i a third message in less than 2 months on coordinating their hostile stands toward Iraq and the Arab nation.

Consequently, the Arabs are today required to be alert to the Syrian regime's treasonous and conspiratorial practices, and to its suspect moves and maneuvers to circumvent the Amman summit resolutions in the interest of its allies in Tehran. They should deal with it in a manner commensurate with the Arab nation's supreme interests, which are greatly jeopardized by Hafiz al-Asad's regime.

Ramadan Questions Purpose of Syrian Gulf Moves

JN311100 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jan (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and deputy prime minister, has described the Syrian move toward the Arabian Gulf as a dirty attempt to divide brothers. In an article published in AL-THAWRAH today, Ramadan says that the Syrian move seeks to isolate Iraq from the Arab countries in the Arabian Gulf. He adds: There is no difference between what Iran is carrying out against Iraq and what it is carrying out against Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Ramadan stresses that the fragementation of the Arab front against the Khomeyniite tyranny will encourage Iran to pursue the war. Ramadan says that the defeat of the Iranian aggression against Iraq and the Arabian Gulf countries is taking place through a unified and cohesive broad Arab front.

Ramadan expresses regret that the Syrian move takes place after the Amman summit, which made the Arab masses confident that they will live in an Arab atmosphere permeated with a united pan-Arab stand and Arab solidarity.

Taha Yasin Ramadan vehemently criticizes the UN Security Council's stand on the implementation of its resolution to end the Iraqi-Iranian war. He says that the Security Council has adopted a hesitant stand and submited to the blackmail and evil actions of the terrorist state of Iran. Ramadan stresses that UN Security Council Resolution 598 is a fair and balanced resolution and that it benefits neither of the two countries in terms of land and people. He criticizes the call adopted by some to adopt a flexible stand. He stresses that this call is merely a cover to have Iraq give up its basic right, as there is nothing else which Iraq can give up. Iraq has agreed to Resolution 598 while Iran has not.

Taha Yasin Ramadan emphasizes that Iran's stand on the question of war and peace is based on an Iranian expansionist strategy which seeks to establish a Persian empire under the cover of exportation of the revolution, and that Iran has initiated this strategy through its aggression against Iraq, and against the Arab and Islamic countries.

Al-Asad, Syria's Offer of Assistance Rejected

JN291846 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1710 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Arab brothers everywhere. It was difficult for noble Iraqi and Arab citizens to swallow the recent reports in Arab and foreign media on a rapprochement between the Syrian regime and Iraq. These reports were especially difficult to tolerate by writers and observers who assign themselves the task of explaining the facts to the masses and of enhancing their awareness in order to understand the plots and maneuvers aimed at the entire Arab existence, in which many quarters are participating, each for its own aims. However, people here in Iraq, the Arab brothers, and even those who fight for the sake of the truth in this world were not surprised. Those who devoted themselves to God and those with conscience were not surprised either. The reason is very clear. Differences between Iraq and the Syrian rulers are not connected with secondary or ordinary issues, such as happen between one government and another. What is at issue between the two sides is the Arab nation, its ambitions, and the threats facing it on the one hand, and the easy path of treason and political maneuvers taken by a few misguided people on the other.

The Iraqi Government is not a government in the traditional sense of the word. It is a leadership that bears the hopes and worries of a nation. It is fighting for the sake of a nation. Anything else is not worthy of consideration by the Iraqi leadership.

As for the Syrian Government—the president and his henchmen—it is only a deviationist gang that sponges on treasonous actions, takes bribes, and derives its strength from well known international and local complications. The enemies of the Arab nation agree that keeping Syria outside the Arab ranks, keeping its government as an obstacle to maintaining a minimum level of Arab solidarity, and its continuation as a tool to implement plots, big and small, is a necessary requirement.

There is no need to reiterate that Iraq has been fighting Iran and the Zionist entity simultaneously for over 7 years in defense of the Arab land, honor, sanctities, history, and aspirations. On the other hand, the Syrian

regime is shedding Arab blood in Lebanon and is participating with the Zionists in wiping out the Palestinians in terms of their culture, spirit, body, and leadership. The Syrian regime is supplying Iran with military, diplomatic, and information assistance to help it build an empire that will include the Arab land but not the Arab people, because the ultimate objective of Iran and its Zionist allies is to transform the Arabs into refugees outside their homeland and as slaves for the Persians and the Jews. The Syrian regime fully realizes this role and insists on adopting it. It always advises Iran on the phases of the so-called struggle, counseling it to devote its efforts to fighting Iraq as a first phase because Iran knows that without the fall of the Iraqi walls, Iran, Zionism, and the Syrian regime will have no hope.

In so doing, the Syrian regime obtains assistance from Zionism and the big powers. It also obtains funds, oil, and personal bribes from Iran.

How can Iraq, whose leadership represents the Arab nation's conscience, be reconciled with the Syrian regime, whose leadership represents treasons against the Arab people and nation.

While it is true that politics require certain conditions and rules, which sometimes are expressed by tactics or temporary silence, when issues reach such a great extent of contradiction, diplomacy cannot be pursued at the expense of principles unless the enemy of the nation abandons his course, recants, and repents before the people.

God is our witness, we never wanted Hafiz al-Asad to stand by us, extend to us assistance, or to fight anyone at our side. What we wanted was that he should at least renounce the course of treason so that we could remain silent and take no notice of him. We could not have been proud if Hafiz al-Asad stood by us. The exact opposite is true. We were never in need of Hafiz al-Asad's assistance. The generous Iraqi people are enough, and we have great strategic assets in our Arab nation. We merely did not want our future generations to read in history books that a few Arabs stood by the enemy against their own people in a fierce battle.

Now that Hafiz al-Asad is insisting on this, it is his own affair. Therefore, let God and history curse him.

Further Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,003

JN291759 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Communique No 3,003 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 29 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave soldiers affirm with their high morale and daring deeds in all areas of operations that Iraq is the strongest because it is in the right and because it possesses all factors of superiority over the criminal clique ruling in Iran, which is following the course of aggression. The following is a roundup of our units' activities for last night and today:

1. In reaffirmation of great Iraq's measures to impose a siege on the backward Iranian regime's oil resources and to prevent this regime from using these resources to perpetuate the war and commit aggression against our people, our brave hawks carried out an accurate and effective strike against a large maritime target off the Iranian coast at 0500 [0200 GMT] today. Afterwards, they safely returned to base under God's protection and guidance.

2. The heroic I Army Corps men in the northern sector attacked the enemy scoundrels' assembly points, weapons emplacements, and equipment. Through their strong fire and concentrated blow, they inflicted heavy losses on the aggressors as follows: 246 enemy scoundrels killed; 4 tanks, 1 armored personnel carier, 1 bulldozer [preceding word in English], and 1 shovel destroyed; 7 vehicles burned and destroyed; 2 106-mm guns, 3 machineguns, and 2 infantry positions destroyed; and 11 ammunition dumps blown up.

3. In the Special I Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces—one enemy soldier was killed and one shovel was destroyed.

4. In the II Army Corps central sector, four scoundrels were killed, two machineguns and one infantry position were destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up.

5. In the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan, three infantry positions were destroyed and their occupants were killed or wounded.

6. In the VI Army Corps sector east of Tigris, one enemy soldier was killed, one observation post was destroyed, and one ammuition dump was blown up.

7. In the VII Army Corps sector, one enemy Soldier was killed and one infantry position and two machineguns were destroyed.

8. The heroic Al-'Amiq Port Force foiled an attempt by 16 Iranian boats to approach the port yesterday and forced them to flee.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 29 January 1988

Spokesman on Kurdish Attacks

JN301357 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jan (WAKH)—A senior Iraqi military official here has refuted the claims propagated by Kurdish rebels to the effect that they set ablaze a touristic resort in northern Iraq and destroyed more than 1,000 houses there.

In a statement to a WAKH correspondent in Baghdad, Iraqi military spokesman 'Abd al-Jabbar Muhsin said: The rebels tried to direct fire from distant places toward an area established by the state for tourist purposes in northern Iraq. He indicated that this did not result in significant losses for the tourist resort.

A spokesman for the opposition Patriotic Union of Kurdistan party said yesterday that party elements set 1,150 houses ablaze in the Sirarsh [as received] area in Irbil, including the houses of President Saddam Husayn and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

Muhsin denied that there are houss belonging to Iraqi Presidenr Saddam Husayn or to Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, in the area. He added: President Saddam Husayn resides in the hearts of all Iraqis. He went on to say that claiming responsibility for attacks on installations built with the aim of providing comfort to citizens anywhere in Iraq cannot be a source of pride to any party.

61 Iranians Killed

JN301637 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jan (INA)—Iraqi planes have launched 53 air raids on Iranian enemy troops in operational theaters.

A military spokesman has told INA that the Iraqi force of the Al-'Amiq port forced eight Iranian gunboats to flee after they had approached the port.

The military spokesman broke down the losses sustained by the Iranian enemy in the operational theaters during the past 24 hours as follows: 61 Iranians were killed and others were wounded; 13 ammunition dumps were blown up; and 1 tank, 1 armored personnel carrier, 6 vehicles, 15 infantry positions, 1 gun emplacement, 2 machineguns, 2 observation posts, and 1 shovel [preceding word in English] were destroyed.

The spokesman indicated that a number of Iranian military personnel sought refuge with the Iraqi forward units and added that they were evacuated to the rear lines.

Communique No 3,004

JN301822 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Communique No 3,004 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 30 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In the epic of defending the nation's honor and the people's accomplishments, the epic of the glorious Saddam battle, the valiant men of Iraq continue to display further determination to defend the right while their abilities to crush the remnants of the misguided Khomeyniite clique acquire further strength. The following is a roundup of our troops' activities for last night and today:

1. The aircraft of our heroic Air Force launched successful raids on enemy troops in operational theaters and inflicted further losses in personnel, weapons, and other equipment on the remnants of the unjust Khomeyniites through 53 combat missions. Then, our aircraft returned safely to base, God be praised.

2. Our courageous units in the I Army Corps northern sector continued to carry out their heroic activities against the vile aggressors and inflicted on them the following losses: 47 scoundrels killed, with others wounded; 12 ammunition dumps destroyed; 1 tank, 1 armored personnel carrier, and 5 vehicles of various types burned and destroyed; and 10 infantry positions destroyed.

3. A force from one of our units in the I Special Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar forces—carried out a raid on the enemy positions in front of it. The force clashed with the scoundrels using all of its weapons and inflicted on them losses in personnel and weapons. Then, the force returned safely to base. Elswhere in the same sector, one enemy soldier was killed and one DSHK machinegun, three infantry positions, and one gun emplacement were destroyed.

4. Three soldiers were killed in the II Army Corps central sector.

5. One vehicle was burned and one soldier was killed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

6. Four enemy soldiers were killed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

7. Six enemy troops were killed, one infantry position was destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

8. Two observation posts, one single-barreled machinegun, one infantry position, and one shovel [preceding word in English] were destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

9. Eight enemy gunboats tried to approach the Al-'Amiq port. The heroic port force confronted them with their weapons and forced them to flee.

10. A number of Iranian military personnel sought refugee with our forward units and were safely evacuated to the rear lines.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 30 January 1988

Jets Raid 'Large Maritime' Target

JN310711 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0700 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Statement by an Iraqi military spokesman dated 31 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave hawks continue round the clock to stalk the maritime targets transporting oil supplies to the enemy which help it in pursuing the war and aggression against our country. At 2400 [2100 GMT] yesterday, our hawks carried out a successful raid against a very large maritime target off the Iranian coast. After dealing it an accurate and effective blow, our hawks returned to base safely with their aircraft. God be praised.

[Dated] 31 January 1988

Jets Attack 2d Maritime Target

JN310928 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0915 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Statement by an Iraqi military spokesman dated 31 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In implementation of the decision adopted by our great people and our wise leadership, our brave Air Force aircraft continued to stalk the enemy maritime targets. At 0900 [0600 GMT] today, our brave hawks dealt an accurate and effective blow against a large maritime target off the Iranian coast. This is the second maritime target that our brave hawks have pounced on over the past 12 hours. After completing their mission, our hawks safely returned to base with their aircraft under God's protection.

[Dated] 31 January 1988.

Spokesman Totals Iranian Losses

JN311601 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jan (INA)—The Iraqi units in the operation sectors have inflicted heavy losses on the Iranian forces and equipment. In a statement to INA, an Iraqi military spokesman said that the Iraqi forces killed 155 Iranian soldiers; wounded others; destroyed 19 infantry positions, 1 observation post, 1 heavy machinegun, and 1 mortar gun; burned 11 vehicles and 1 raft; damaged 3 other vehicles; and blew up 10 ammunition dumps.

The spokesman pointed out that the force of the Iraqi port of Al-'Amiq confronted 10 Iranian boats which tried to approach the port last night and forced them to flee. He also said that the Iraqi planes dealt two accurate and effective blows to two large maritime targets near the Iranian coast last night and this morning.

Communique No 3,005

JN311754 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Communique No 3,005 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 31 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces have deep confidence in permanent victory. For the sake of the dignity of the homeland and the honor of the people, they are continuing their heroic struggle to defend the homeland's sovereignty and repulse the aggression in order to force the criminal Iranian rulers to resort to right and justice. The following is a roundup of our unit's activities for last night and today:

1. As part of efforts to destroy the refuge of the unjust group in Tehran and pursuant to our firm and legitimate plan to destroy the enemy's oil resources, our heroic hawks carried out the following two missions:

a. An accurate and effective blow was dealt to a very large maritime target near the Iranian coast at 2400 [2100 GMT] yesterday.

b. Our planes carried out a successful raid on a large maritime target near the Iranian coast at 0900 [0600 GMT] today. They scored an accurate and effective blow against it. After carrying out these two missions, our planes returned safely to their bases with God's care.

2. Our brave units in the I Army Corps northern sector inflicted important losses on the aggressors as follows: 137 scoundrels killed; 12 infantry positions destroyed; 5 vehicles burned; and 8 ammunition dumps blown up.

3. Three enemy personnel were killed and three infantry positions were destroyed in the I Special Army Corps opertions sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces.

4. Four enemy personel were killed, one infantry position and one observation post were destroyed, and one vehicle was burned in the II Army Corps central sector.

5. Two infantry positions, one heavy machinegun, and one mortar gun were destroyed and three enemy vehicles were damaged in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

6. An enemy patrol of approximately 10 persons tried to approach one of our units in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan, but it was attacked and most of its personnel were either killed or wounded. Elsewhere in the sector, one enemy personnel was killed.

7. Four scoundrels were killed, four vehicles and one raft were destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

8. Seven enemy personnel were killed, one infantry position was blown up, one vehicle was burned, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the VII Army Corps front.

9. Ten enemy boats tried to approach the Al-'Amiq Port last night. But the heroic men of the port confronted them and forced them to flee.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 31 January 1988

Peres' Office Denies Payment Offer From Meese

TA301852 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] THE NEW YORK TIMES writes that while he was prime minister, Shim'on Peres promised in writing that Israel would not attack the oil pipeline that was supposed to be laid between Iraq and the port of Al-'Aqabah in Jordan.

THE LOS ANGELES TIMES publishes a memorandum sent to the U.S. attorney general, including the suggestion that the Labor Party be bribed so that Mr Peres would pledge not to attack the pipeline.

The documents were published against the backdrop of an investigation of charges against Attorney General Edwin Meese.

Our correspondent was told by Minister Peres' office that the entire cabinet decided not to object to the laying of the pipeline and that the matter was discussed in official contacts between Israel and the United States. Mr Peres was never offered money or any valuables in connection with this affair.

Shamir: Jordan Allowed 'To Police' Territories

TA291919 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] A REUTER report by its Jerusalem correspondent quotes the prime minister's aides as saying that Mr Shamir is willing to permit Jordan to police Judaea and Samaria. The prime minister's aides told the correspondent that the possibility of policing by Jordan is included in the autonomy proposal sent by the prime minister to the United States.

Reacting to the report, the prime minister's spokesman told our political affairs correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami that Mr Shamir has a series of proposals intended to adapt the autonomy plan to the possibility of Jordan participating in the negotiations. Nevertheless, it is premature at this stage to discuss any one particular proposal.

Shamir Aide Denies Report

TA301810 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, has totally denied a REUTER report from yesterday which cited Shamir's aides as saying that Mr Shamir is prepared to permit Jordan to participate in policing duties in the territories. Mr Pazner told our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami that it is too early to raise concrete proposals for negotiations.

Shamir Willing To Negotiate Autonomy Changes

TA301733 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] The prime minister is willing to negotiate with Jordan over changes in the autonomy plan. This was stated by Mr Shamir's spokesman.

REUTER has reported that Shamir is willing to enable Jordan to participate in the policing of the territories.

In an interview with the Voice of Israel the prime minister said that the U.S. Administration's way of thinking is close to the Israeli Government's stands.

Shamir Message to Shultz on Territories Detailed

TA010707 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Feb 88 pp 1, 11

[Report by Orli Azulay-Katz, Roni Shaqed, Bina Barzel, and Washington correspondent Erol Guiney]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Various Israeli and U.S. sources have reported that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir sent a message to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz last week in which he wrote that he does not object to negotiations "based on the return of territories in exchange for peace." Shamir added in his message that "King Husayn does not accurately describe the situation when he says that we are not prepared to negotiate the territories." David Ignatius, the deputy editor of THE WASHINGTON POST, also reported yesterday on Shamir's message to Shultz.

The message was relayed to Shultz by Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein, who went to the United States last week on a mission on Shamir's behalf. The message further stated that Shamir agrees to grant full autonomy to the residents of the territories, except in foreign and security matters.

Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, yesterday denied the reports that Shamir had sent a message from which it could be inferred that he agrees to territorial compromise or to withdrawal. "It is very well known that the prime minister objects to this, and the current ideas being raised by Shultz are aimed at looking into the possibility of holding negotiations on an interim arrangement along the lines of the autonomy plan, as laid out in the Camp David Accords," Pazner said.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 1 Feb in a report on pages one and six writes: "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has reservations about the phased plan and about the U.S. timetable, as proposed by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, in particular".]

Yesterday, sources in the prime minister's office also denied allegations that there were differences of opinion over the contents of Shamir's message to Shultz among the Likud ministers.

Our correspondent Bina Barzel adds:

Minister Ari'el Sharon last night told YEDI'OT AHARONOT: "Knowing Mr Shamir as I know him, I cannot conceive of the idea that he agrees to territorial concessions." As for the reports about Shamir's message to Shultz on this matter, Sharon said: "No such document has been shown to me nor, to the best of my knowledge, to the cabinet. I know nothing about this document." [passage omitted]

Insists on 5-Year Time Frame

TA011003 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir insists on the implementation of autonomy according to the original time frame stipulated in the Camp David Accords—5 years. Shamir opposes the new U.S. proposal to reduce the length of the interim settlement and to start negotiations on a permanent solution this year. Senior sources in the prime minister's office disclosed this to our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel.

The sources said the events in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip over the past 2 months proved that the interim period must be lengthened by several years, rather than shortened. They said that reducing the interim settlement to only several months was originally Yasir 'Arafat's idea. Our correspondent adds that Shamir, in a message he sent to Secretary of State George Shultz, wrote that autonomy in the territories would continue for 5 years, and that the negotiations for the permanent settlement would begin no earlier than at the end of the first 3 years of the autonomy.

Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon said today that the autonomy proposed by Israel is part of the Camp David Accords as presented by former Prime Minister Menahem Begin, and he believes that Israel will be able to stand firm on this proposal and insist on its demand for security arrangements.

Shamir, Peres Welcome U.S. Peace Initiative

TA302006 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres welcome the renewal of U.S. activity for the promotion of the peace process in the Middle East. Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren reports that Washington and Jerusalem are awaiting King Husayn's reaction to the U.S. proposal conveyed by Philip Habib. According to this proposal, the United States will begin talks to reach an accelerated interim arrangement in the territories, with the participation of Israel, Jordan, the Palestinians, and Egypt.

The foreign minister's political adviser, who met yesterday in Washington with President Mubarak's adviser, is due back in Israel in 2 days. He will report on the Egyptian stand in relation to the recent U.S. moves. The prime minister is waiting for an official report from the United States on these meetings. The prime minister's office stated tonight that the details of the interim arrangement are being examined in the United States and in Israel, and that nothing has been concluded so far.

Shamir Questioned on Plan

TA300937 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-'Ami] Mr Prime Minister, at the end of this week you appear optimistic in the wake of what you have heard from Washington, in the wake of the news brought by your envoy, Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein. What is this optimism based on?

[Shamir] I am not optimistic, but I am very far from pessimistic. I am content with the fact that the U.S. Administration, which has a great advantage from the point of view of its status in our region—enjoying the trust of both Israel and most Arab countries—is prepared to increase its participation in efforts to find peaceful solutions to the disagreements which exist between us and our neighbors. The U.S. Administration's train of thought is very similar to our thinking. By that I am referring to the state of Israel, to all governments in Israel so far. It is largely similar to the formulations of the basic guidelines of the national unity government which stipulate that Israel, through political negotiations with its neighbors, will follow the path of the Camp David Accords.

[Ben-'Ami] Could you perhaps elaborate more on the direction in which the U.S. Administration is heading in its attempt to solve the problem? I understand, and so it sounds from Washington, that the administration does not view an international conference as a possible solution. If so, what direction is the administration leading to with regard to a solution?

[Shamir] It is true that the U.S. Administration is not happy, and this is an understatement, about any possibility of an international conference. It is not happy about this from the point of view of Israeli interests, as it is viewed there, as well as from the point of view of U.S. interests. Therefore, it attaches great importance to the principle of direct negotiations. The United States believes that those same principles laid down in the accords achieved at the time between Israel and Egypt can also be useful today, even if we do not call them by their names, such as Camp David and autonomy.

[Ben-'Ami] At the end of this week, though, we hear that Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has said that Egypt demands an international conference. Jordan is not,

after all, committed to those international agreements which were signed at the time. With whom then can one make progress on the path you are talking about?

[Shamir] First, I do not know who it is useful to talk with on behalf of the Arab governments. Until now we have not heard that President Mubarak is totally opposed to the remarks he has heard in Washington over the last few days, and he did hear remarks in the spirit of those solutions which I have just listed. Nor have we heard anything from King Husayn. Who among us has the right or the interest to speak in their names?

Second, it is very important to reach a united position with the U.S. Government. The U.S. Government has numerous ways and means to convince our Arab neighbors to come to an agreement on method and action. An international conference is apparently unacceptable to the United States today. It is also clear to the Americans that U.S. influence will quickly shrink in such a conference. The Soviet Union will assume preference and dominant importance since the Soviets will appear as the protectors [preceding word in English] of the Arab positions, even the most extreme ones.

Therefore, no observer, whether in the Middle East, Europe, or the United States, has any doubt that if such a conference is convened, and decisions are made during it with the UN Security Council's stamp of approval, there will be an attempt to impose solutions that none of us want. In contrast, the method which follows the pattern of the Camp David Accords provides room for negotiations, for exchanges of views and ideas—and we are still at this stage—between us and our neighbors.

[Ben-'Ami] Still, Mr Shamir, I would like to pass on to you a question Mr Peres posed to me. With whom will you enter negotiations on autonomy, for example? Who can you sit with? Who can you offer such a temporary, if not permanent, arrangement?

[Shamir] Of course the partners to an autonomy agreement should be those people who will accept it, namely the Arabs—the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el, the Palestinian Arabs. Today it is impossible for these Arabs to decide on a team which can speak for and be representative of all of them. If the United States manages to convince the Egyptian and Jordanian leaders that they should follow this path, then we will have a partner with whom to talk. It is also possible that these elements, namely the United States, Egypt, and Jordan, will manage to compose some sort of Palestinian representation. In addition, one should remember that if autonomy is established in one form or another, one of the first duties of the autonomy will be to hold democratic elections in which authorities will be chosen. These authorities will constitute the legitimate representation with which we will conduct negotiations on the permanent solution, among other things.

[Ben-'Ami] If the United States does not manage to convince the Egyptian and Jordanian leaders, are we then destined to a deadlock? Or according to one of the definitions, will our political hands be tied?

[Shamir] Why? Every possible solution should be tried. Of all the possible solutions this is the most desirable one for us. It has transpired in recent years that it was not in vain that then Prime Minister Begin, may God give him long life, and the late President al-Sadat reached that agreement. It is very difficult to reach an agreement on sovereignty. At that time both sides preferred to settle on this interim arrangement or solution as the most logical one.

As a result, nobody has found a better solution in all the years which have since elapsed. After all, an international conference is not a solution. It is a matter of procedure. It is a dangerous procedure, in my opinion, but it is definitely no solution. Furthermore, the U.S. Government today says we should first conduct negotiations on substance, on the substance of the agreement, and if an agreement on substance is reached we will discuss procedure later. A discussion will then be much easier. Procedure will be a secondary matter then. Why not follow this road? I do not see any danger there.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Shamir, you heard this week an accusation emanating from the Alignment ministers' meeting which you had surely not heard before. The accusation was to the effect that you are actually contributing to the establishment of a Palestinian state. As a result of having no Palestinian leadership in Judaea and Samaria, there will be no choice but to talk with the PLO. You had not heard such an accusation before, had you?

[Shamir] Look, we have heard all sorts of accusations. I do not get excited over these accusations since their meaning is clear. I am opposed to negotiations with the PLO. I do not think that Israel should ever conduct negotiations with this terrorist organization. We also now see in the area that the PLO is not the deciding factor. It participates in these riots, it has influence, but it is not the decisionmaker, nor is it the only factor involved. Therefore, nobody will force us to conduct negotiations with an element to which we do not want to attach any importance.

[Ben-'Ami] At the beginning of this interview you said that the approach now being advocated from Washington is in fact the position of the Israeli Government's. As for the current government, this may be the position of only half of it. The possibility arises again: Do these disagreements not lead to a decision on a divorce in this match?

[Shamir] I greatly regret this inference, this conclusion to which at the moment you serve as a mouthpiece. After all, the basic guidelines of the national unity government clearly state that the method of negotiations along the lines of the Camp David Accords will be the policy of the

entire government and not of half of it. After all, most of the Alignment members voted for the Camp David Accords at the time. They did so much more than I did. Therefore, I do not see any reason why this should be the position of only half of the government. I do not believe that this is the belief of all Alignment ministers. This is inconceivable to me. As for a divorce, what is that? We are preparing for elections and will have to hold them. It is then that the people will have their say. If, according to the people, only one party should rule, so be it. The people may yet say differently.

[Ben-'Ami] Elections will, therefore, be held on schedule?

[Shamir] At the moment I do not see any reason why they should not be held on schedule, unless the Alignment convinces us otherwise. I did not see that they were enthusiastic about the opportunity given them a few days ago to vote for early elections.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Shamir, we are trying to look into the future, although it is difficult to do so. Still, how do you foresee the development of the political move or process in the wake of this weekend's events in Washington, and in view of your knowledge of the positions of the different parties to the process?

[Shamir] Look, I do not want to engage in prophesy, nor do I want to commit myself to any road or solution. After all, the road is only a means. An international conference, a regional conference, an agreement on autonomy—all of these are means, and it is impossible and unallowable to confuse the means with the goal, with peace.

[Ben-'Ami] A concluding question: Mr Prime Minister, do you share the assessment that the incidents in the territories in recent weeks are actually helpful in the sense that the entire world is now committed to increased efforts for solving the problem which has now arisen in its most emphatic form?

[Shamir] It is, after all, natural and normal in the wake of such a phenomenon, of riots and disturbances which have become a focus for the world-wide media, that governments and international elements increase their interest in this issue. We have a problem here, particularly due to the media. I would not say this is the most pleasant thing, but I think that it is exactly for this reason that we should today adopt a determined, special, and united position in order to end this wave of riots and disturbances which harms Israel's interests.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr prime minister, thank you very much.

[Shamir] Thank you.

Shamir Prefers Autonomy

TA311751 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political affairs correspondent Me'ir Kohen on 31 January; place not given—videorecorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Kohen] You welcomed the U.S. initiative on the peace process in the region. Could you clarify on what this plan is based?

[Shamir] Well, it is too early to clarify and explain matters, since we are faced not with a plan yet, but with thoughts. I assume that after they are examined they may turn into a plan. Generally speaking, I welcome the effort made in this direction since I view it as another chance for promoting peace in our region.

[Kohen] Sir, is there a difference between the accelerated autonomy mentioned by the U.S. secretary of state and the original plan that was stopped 7 years ago?

[Shamir] I would be very wary about noting that the U.S. secretary of state or anybody else discussed an accelerated autonomy. There are ideas and thoughts to try to have negotiations conducted among the parties in the Middle East on a basis similar to autonomy. That means an interim arrangement, and what is being talked about today, of course, is somewhat different from the model that was negotiated several years ago. It is difficult to say as yet what the differences are since the details have not been worked out yet and are not complete. Still, to the best of our understanding, the intention is to shorten the timetable. At that time people spoke of autonomy as a transitional period that would last 5 years, while the intention today is to have a less lengthy period, for example.

[Kohen] Sir, what would Israel's position be on this plan?

[Shamir] Well, Israel is prepared to enter negotiations on this issue. The position will of course depend on the various details acceptable to the different sides, as is the case in every negotiation. I would prefer this course to that of an international conference, which was not to my liking at all for various reasons. I understand that the United States too prefers this course of interim arrangements to that of the international conference.

[Kohen] In conclusion, sir, how do you see the process in the wake of Philip Habib's mission to Jordan? Is the key in King Husayn's hands?

[Shamir] I am not party to this move of sending Philip Habib. It is not we who sent him, nor are we party to his talks with King Husayn. But I can assume that it is very important to know whether King Husayn is prepared to

enter negotiations on this course. After all, King Husayn is an important element in every move for peace, and it is important to know whether he is prepared to accept this direction.

[Kohen] What about the Palestinian side?

[Shamir] Well, this too is part of the matter. It will have to be determined which Palestinian element will participate in such negotiations. This question concerns all the parties to the move.

[Kohen] Thank you.

Peres Comments on U.S. Moves

TA010815 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Interview with Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Ilana Dayan in the studio and political correspondent 'Oz Frankel in Peres' Jerusalem office—live]

[Text] [Dayan] Jerusalem is giving Washington a green light to check out Husayn's response to the U.S. initiative. Philip Habib has already begun to shuttle between the capitals in the region, and Shultz may arrive in 2 weeks time. Is this a period of change or is change about to come?

[Peres] We seem to be going through a period of change and accelerated political activity.

[Dayan] How is this expressed?

[Peres] In what you said: Mr Habib's visit to Amman, the arrival of Shultz, and accelerated activity over a U.S. plan, which includes an international opening, an interim arrangement, a permanent arrangement—all of this together.

[Frankel] Mr Peres, could you help us understand the plan being worked out in Washington? First, what are the interim arrangements the Americans refer to? What will we discuss with the Jordanians?

[Peres] I believe that what is being considered is self-rule for the residents of the territories.

[Frankel] Autonomy?

[Peres] They do not want to call it autonomy at the moment, in order not to wave the Camp David flag in front of the Jordanian monarchy, but this is an accelerated, upgraded autonomy. It forces Israel to confront several very serious problems, because the autonomy agreement included—according to the Americans—an agreement on 80 percent of the issues. I do not know if it is 80 percent or 70 percent—it is hard to judge—but there are still issues under dispute which must be decided on, and this must be done now, quickly and clearly.

[Frankel] So where are the difficulties?

[Peres] I do not see any difficulties. I see a problem in making a decision on the outstanding issues. For instance, no decision has yet been made on whether to give the residents of East Jerusalem the right to vote within the autonomy framework. It is clear that this is not an easy decision to make. There is also the problem of water resources, of the control of the territories, and various other issues.

[Frankel] What timetable are the Americans proposing for the three stages?

[Peres] I do not want to speak for the Americans, but what is under consideration is reaching an understanding on an interim settlement within weeks; the convening of an international opening, or an international conference, within 2 to 3 months; and at the third stage, an attempt to reach a permanent settlement.

[Dayan] Does such a tight timetable seem realistic to you?

[Peres] You asked me what the proposed timetable was. I do not know. It is hard for me to reply to that question. There are so many aspects, and we have seen in the past that unexpected problems also crop up. I am satisfied with the U.S. involvement and the tempo they propose. I cannot really tell you to what extent it is feasible or not.

[Dayan] It appears to be a very ambitious plan. The question is: Why should we race ahead to a permanent settlement when an interim settlement, if it is implemented at all, will still be in its infancy?

[Peres] The logic of the negotiations must be understood once and for all. You can begin the negotiations on the substance, and you can begin with procedure. Procedure means an international conference, while substance refers to an interim settlement and a permanent settlement. An international conference—the procedure—can be given up if Israel and the United States, or at least the United States on its own, gives Jordan a commitment on the results of the negotiations.

[Dayan] Does that mean you think King Husayn will not give a positive response unless he receives an a priori U.S. promise concerning the international conference?

[Peres] No, he will not have to wait for it. I think the United States will tell King Husayn that it will definitely make clear its position on the two issues. The United States has its own positions on the two issues, that of the interim and that of the permanent arrangement, and it will definitely make them known.

[Dayan] Mr Peres, you have been talking about an international conference for 2 years and, as you have just said, this is what the procedure is all about. It seems that at least the contents of the new U.S. initiative digresses from the London agreements and from your repeated statements that nothing will budge without an international conference.

[Peres] Look, I would not like to prophesize about this matter, but this is a very interesting political question. Would we not prefer to agree to an open international procedure, without an a priori U.S. commitment—obviously, the U.S. commitment would not only have to take Israel's, but also Jordan's position into consideration—than to agree to an international opening with the United States, presumably the most pro-Israeli country among the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, having already made up its mind about its positions?

As far as I am concerned, I am in favor of promoting the peace process. I am not doctrinaire, neither on the question of procedure nor on the question of substance. When I quietly analyze the situation, I can clearly see the differences between the advantages inherent in a procedure that gives us breathing space and the ability to conduct negotiations at our own pace and a very accelerated substance whose proceedings include an international opening. As said, however, I am glad that the United States has taken the initiative, that it is stepping forward so energetically, with such a full agenda, and with such enthusiastic faith. I am glad about this.

[Frankel] Are you skeptical?

[Peres] I am not skeptical. I think there is no choice other than to settle the problems because time does not stand still.

[Dayan] Mr Peres, do you think that Prime Minister Shamir has also realized this? Do you perceive a softening in his political positions? For example, he has said—or, at least, this has been attributed to him—that the territories are also negotiable.

[Peres] I am not prepared to talk for Mr Shamir. He can speak for himself, and I do not have to be his mouthpiece or interpreter. Still, it is clear that the interim arrangement—namely, self-rule—must be very extensive or else it will not be accepted. It must come together with a U.S. declaration about its position concerning the permanent settlement. Obviously, the permanent settlement will more or less be along the lines of the Reagan plan.

[Frankel] The question is: Can negotiations be conducted at all, given that Israel is on the brink, or rather in the midst, of an election year? Let us look at the issue of the interim arrangements. A few weeks ago you described the Likud's autonomy plan as fanciful and unrealistic. How can a government in which the new partners have an equal say enter negotiations?

[Peres] First of all, when did I ever describe the plan this way?

[Frankel] If I am not mistaken, you compared the Likud's plan to Marc Chagall's paintings of people flying in midair.

[Peres] What I said is that the idea of distinguishing between territories and inhabitants in the permanent solution is really worthy of Chagall—and there is a big difference there. There is no doubt that the autonomy plan will have to address the issue of land, water, ballot cards, and the like. There is no doubt about that.

[Dayan] With your permission, Mr Peres, we will now move on to a different subject. The report published yesterday on the front page of newspapers in the United States concerning bribes which you were about to be or actually were offered....

[Peres, interrupting] Oh, really! The reports did not say that I was offered bribes. Look, please be accurate.

[Dayan] I would like to hear from you about it.

[Peres] No chance. First of all, you should read the reports properly. They said that somebody told somebody else that perhaps it would be worthwhile to offer bribes, but nobody said that bribes were offered and nobody said this actually took place. Really, one must be very accurate. The entire report is totally unfounded because Israel's agreement was given with the approval of the two parties and, what is more, there was no need to pay anybody off.

[Frankel] As far as the agreement is concerned, this represents a change in Israeli policy, a change in our inclinations. At one time we supported Iran. We conducted negotiations and talks with it, and we sold it weapons, whereas today we support the Iraqis.

[Peres] Neither the former nor the latter are true. We did not support Iran. We supported the release of U.S. hostages held by the Iranians. Forgive me for getting upset, but things must be reported accurately because there is always the danger of slander. We did not support Iran. We supported the release of U.S. hostages held by the Iranians, at the request of the Americans—and let nobody tell you any stories.

The current report concerns an oil pipeline which would have crossed Jordanian territory and which we thought would have contributed to strategic tranquility and would have constituted another element in the creation of a peace process.

[Dayan] Nevertheless, if you allow me, I will quote this morning's report that the special U.S. prosecutor will apparently seek to interrogate Israeli officials. Will you agree to cooperate with him?

[Peres] Excuse me, what should I be interrogated about?

[Dayan] About the things he is going to ask you.

[Peres] Are you representing this prosecutor? I do not understand. Besides defending the truth and our self-respect a little bit—what is there to be interrogated about? Has anybody said that anything was offered? Has anybody said that this was discussed with me? I beg you to show a little accuracy and respect.

[Dayan] Mr Peres, the question is about the reports published in the United States that the prosecutor will seek to interrogate people. My question simply is whether you will agree to cooperate with him.

[Peres] What must I be interrogated about? I do not understand. How do you know about it? Has there been such a report?

[Dayan] Yes.

[Peres] Be patient. I will give my answer if asked.

[Dayan] Until then, we thank you very much for this interview, Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres.

Cabinet Discusses Plan 31 Jan

TA311116 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Here is an update on the cabinet session:

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says that the U.S. Administration has raised several ideas for an interim settlement in the territories along the lines of the autonomy plan, but on a shortened process that will take less than 5 years.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 31 January in a similar report adds: "The new U.S. proposal suggests shortening the duration of autonomy from 5 to 4 years. Additionally, the talks for a permanent settlement will begin as early as this coming December."]

The United States is similarly proposing that negotiations over the final settlement will begin before the end of the 3-year period stipulated in the Camp David Accords. The prime minister added that the Cabinet will hold a debate prior to responding to the U.S. Administration on this initiative. He claimed that U.S. envoy Philip Habib is currently sounding out King Husayn's position on the matter.

Our political correspondent reports that at the cabinet debate, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that he is pleased with the active U.S. involvement in the political process, but he, too, believes that it is necessary to await the Jordanians' answer.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin reviewed the situation in the territories over the past week, and in reply to a question, said that he still cannot notice signs of an emerging new leadership in the territories.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 31 January adds that "the defense minister and the police affairs minister reviewed the weekend flare-ups in the territories and in Jerusalem."]

'Change' in Shamir View Noted

TA311957 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1912 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has asked the U.S. secretary of state to explain to King Husayn that it is not true that Israel's position is that the territories are nonnegotiable. Alignment ministers told our political correspondent this evening that this constitutes a significant change in the prime minister's position.

At today's cabinet meeting, Ministers David Levi and Ari'el Sharon warned against the new political initiative and the Arab version of the autonomy plan. Minister Yosef Shapira said that he fears the prime minister has been worn thin by the events in the territories. A source in the prime minister's office told our correspondent this evening that Yitzhaq Shamir has no fear of criticism, and if he decided to lead toward a political move, he would do so. Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren reports on the cabinet session and on the political developments:

Although the details of the latest political moves have not yet been officially published, it is already possible to notice new elements in the prime minister's views. The prime minister is prepared to conduct negotiations with Jordan over autonomy because it is clear to him that King Husayn is not committed to the Camp David Accords. That is why Yitzhaq Shamir informed the United States via the cabinet secretary that he is prepared to grant the inhabitants of the territories full autonomy, except for control over foreign and security matters. Yitzhaq Shamir also announced that it was not true that the territories are not subject for negotiations.

As a result, the U.S. secretary of state informed the prime minister that if he notes any progress in the negotiations, he will come to the Middle East to promote the process.

These developments have created a new and extremely interesting political alignment within the cabinet. The prime minister and the vice prime minister support the political moves, while senior Likud ministers such as David Levi and Ari'el Sharon warn against the dangers lurking behind them.

Deputy Prime Minister David Levi warned against the political approach which authorizes the United States to work out with King Husayn the arrangement for the

future of the territories. He claims that the initiative includes serious contradictions and gives priority in time and importance to the permanent settlement rather than to the autonomy plan. In the end, says Levi, it will prepare the ground for the transfer of the territories to Jordan. If we do not explain our position to the United States at once, he said, the United States will sell the Reagan plan to Jordan, which is a plan we oppose.

Minister Ari'el Sharon demanded an urgent discussion of the nature of the autonomy, which he claims involves great dangers. There is a Jewish concept, he says, and there is also an Arab concept. We must consolidate our position immediately and at the same time take measures to prevent the danger. One way of doing that is by launching a massive settlement drive throughout the territories.

Minister Yosef Shapira told us this evening: If 'Ezer Weizman is happy with the plan, this is a good reason for concern. The events in the territories, he says, have pressured everyone, and I am afraid that even Yitzhaq Shamir, whom I usually trust and in whom I have great faith, is beginning to wear thin.

His fellow party member, Minister Zvulun Hammer, on the other hand, says: We prefer an agreement with the incumbent U.S. Administration over one that will be forced on us by the next administration.

Minister Shahal warned that an autonomy process without Jordan means negotiations with the PLO and the establishment of a Palestinian state.

The prime minister calmed the ministers down, noting that Israel will not provide the United States with answers before the cabinet holds a political discussion. The United States will not catch us by surprise this time, Yitzhaq Shamir promised.

Thus, everyone is currently waiting for King Husayn's answer to the United States, as it will determine the future of the next phase of the political process, which is developing these very days.

Ministers Discuss Initiative

TA311411 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Report by political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami from the prime minister's office in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] Unlike our weekly reports on cabinet sessions from the prime minister's office over the past 6 or 7 weeks, I am going to report to you on a meeting that was not polemical—and this is new. A political debate began today in view of the ongoing political talks and the U.S. initiative.

Minister Ya'aqobi asked Minister Rabin whether he discerns any new leadership in Judaea and Samaria that could be included in negotiations. Minister Rabin said he has not found such a leadership, and that the inhabitants of the territories continue to identify with the PLO.

Minister Ya'aqobi asked: Why does the cabinet not hear reports on the political talks in Washington and other places? It is not proper that we are not briefed.

The prime minister responded: A debate in the cabinet will take place regardless of the circumstances. If the government has to give a final answer to the U.S. initiatives, all views will be raised and final answers will be worked out. In any case, the prime minister said, the main event is centered around President Mubarak's visit to Washington.

Cabinet Secretary Rubinstein had been invited to Washington by the State Department to receive a report on the initiative and the U.S. ideas. These refer to interim arrangements based on the autonomy model: an accelerated process of less than 5 years—most likely 4 years—and negotiations for a final settlement would begin, if possible, by the end of 1988. The aim is to reach a discussion on substance and not on procedure.

Vice Prime Minister Peres said there are differences of opinion on the attitude toward procedure and substance. The Jordanians say to us: If you, Israel, give us a guarantee on substance, we will yield on the procedure. But if you do not, then procedure is important to us. The United States says: Let us agree with Jordan on substance, there is nothing to fear. The Americans say we will agree to something similar to autonomy without calling it by that name. We will convene an international conference. Afterward we will begin discussions on a permanent arrangement by the end of the year.

Minister Peres said the United States is committed to the Camp David Accords, and might propose the Reagan plan—which says that autonomy is the final arrangement—as the permanent agreement. The United States stresses the international angle to the Arabs and less to us. Nevertheless, the United States has promised not to surprise Israel this time. Each step will be reported, and Minister Peres believes it is preferable to negotiate with the Reagan administration and not with its successor.

Deputy Prime Minister David Levi said we must make our position on substance clear to the United States before they sell Israel to King Husayn. The acceleration of the process proves that an interim settlement is not under discussion, but that discussions on a permanent arrangement would begin immediately afterward.

In contrast to Levi, Minister 'Ezer Weizman said that we are finally taking the right path. If an autonomy proposal is submitted in the cabinet I will vote for it even if it does

not involve a permanent arrangement, he said. Minister Weizman also believes an agreement with the current administration is preferable.

Minister Ya'aqov Tzur said he is in favor of declaring a truce in which the two main blocs in the cabinet would rally around an agreed position on an interim arrangement or an international opening.

Minister Ari'el Sharon said there are many dangers in the proposed plan. He said: We must suggest steps—that is, a massive settlement drive in the territories—that will neutralize the dangers. Without settlement there is a danger, Sharon believes. There is the Jewish concept of autonomy and there is the Arab concept. We must distinguish between them, he noted.

The prime minister summed up by saying he was satisfied with this nonpolemical debate. The United States will not surprise us. The administration does not believe that a permanent settlement can be reached, and thinks that even an interim settlement would be hard to attain because there is not enough time. The international conference is not the top priority of the United States, because it believes that it contains an element of coercion. We have a great interest in improving the condition of the refugees. The situation is very fluid, and Secretary of State Shultz might come for short talks in the region even before going to Moscow.

At the end of the meeting we received the impression that progress had been made regarding the U.S. initiative. We asked Minister Moshe Shahal if Labor ministers were not taking a somewhat partisan stand because the initiative did not come from them.

[Begin Shahal recording] We said that the issue is so serious that the Alignment should not play any games. For us the question is one of life or death. We regret that our position—especially that of the vice prime minister—that an immediate political move was necessary, was not heeded long ago. We will not play any games. We will consider the substance of each proposal. A national issue of the first order is under consideration, and party positions have absolutely no value. Party positions have some value if they are based on ideological concepts of what is good for the state of Israel. [end recording]

Hence, the Alignment ministers have not taken a partisan stand, Minister Shahal said. To conclude, what is under discussion is a short-term autonomy of some 4 years, the beginning of talks on a permanent arrangement by the end of 1988, and a cabinet debate to be held before Israel decides on its moves. We are now waiting for King Husayn's reply via Ambassador Habib.

Content of Proposal Revealed

TA311034 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
31 Jan 88 pp 1, 7

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar, Tzvi Bar'el, 'Oded Zaray, and press agencies]

[Excerpt] U.S. envoy Philip Habib has conveyed the ideas Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein discussed in his talks with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and his aides to King Husayn. The United States is asking King Husayn to enter serious negotiations on an interim settlement which would within 2 to 3 years lead to the opening of discussions on a permanent settlement. If the proposal is accepted—which is doubted in Jerusalem—Habib may begin a shuttle mission in the region.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 31 January in a similar report says that "it was learned in Jerusalem over the weekend, that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will come to the Middle East for a shuttle mission between Amman and Jerusalem in order to coordinate the procedures of the negotiations on autonomy if King Husayn accepts the Washington plan".]

According to sources close to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, the proposals being discussed at present are:

—An "international opening" under the auspices of the two superpowers which would open and close on the same day and would be attended by representatives of the Israeli and Jordanian Governments and mutually-acceptable Palestinian representatives from the territories.

—Proximity or shuttle talks between Jordan and Israel with the participation of Palestinian representatives. Shamir has also agreed to proximity talks with the participation of observers of the two superpowers who would not take part in the talks themselves. Reference is to negotiations which could be held in a hotel in Cairo. A mutually-agreed mediator would relay the proposals between the rooms of the Israeli delegation and that of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. This way, Husayn would be able to argue that he had not entered direct negotiations with Israel and Shamir would argue that what is in question is not an international conference.

—Shamir is prepared to have the talks and the agreements culminate in an international forum which would give its seal of approval to the actual agreements. That way, the conference would be limited to a mere ceremonial role.

—In order not to touch any raw nerves, Jordan and the Palestinians would be offered "self-rule" and not "autonomy." The sides would emphasize that what is in question is not the Camp David Accords but a new process. In particular, the intervals between the various stages of the transfer of power to the autonomy council would be shortened and the process of pulling the IDF out of the towns would be accelerated. [passage omitted]

Rubinstein Analyzes Initiative

TA311606 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1500 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Interview with Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein by Dan Margalit—live in the studio]

[Text] [Margalit] Elyaqim Rubinstein, you were summoned—or invited—to the United States by the State Department. Now you are back and today you attended the cabinet session. Could you tell us, what were the main points of the plan which we will call an interim plan—and that is because the Arabs are afraid of the term autonomy, whereas the plan is actually an autonomy plan for an interim period—currently being consolidated in Washington?

[Rubinstein] First of all, good evening. I would not like to use the term plan. Rather, I would like to talk about ideas. The intention is to try to achieve something that has not been done these last few years, namely address the content of the interim arrangements—or, as you said, autonomy arrangements, even though as you also said, the term is not too popular with some of our interlocutors on the Arab side—rather than procedural matters. The idea now is to find out whether in the course of the year it would be possible to attain an interim arrangement in the spirit of things that had been discussed in the past. Let me emphasize...

[Margalit, interrupting] By the phrase in the spirit of things that had been discussed in the past, do you mean Camp David? After all, you were on Moshe Dayan's team at Camp David, and you therefore know exactly whether this is in pursuance of Camp David or if it is something new.

[Rubinstein] Between 1979 and 1982 there were rather intensive negotiations which people sometimes tend to underestimate both in themselves and in terms of what they resulted in with respect to interim arrangements, or what was known at the time as autonomy. Today, from our point of view, this is still the same thing—in other words, Camp David as the basis. We are aware of the fact that Jordan was not a party at Camp David and is not committed to the accords, but at the same time we also realize that all the plans will have to involve a transitional or interim framework. These are the ideas.

Now, as regards the content of these arrangements—or to use diplomatic lingo, the substance of the content—this has not yet been discussed. In other words, I do not think that even the United States has a clear idea of precisely what needs to be examined and what could be offered. There will, furthermore, be difficulties in this context. Although it is true that a lot had been agreed upon in the past, there are still many things over which the gap is wide. These will not be the easiest negotiations.

[Margalit] Mr Rubinstein, I believe you just uttered the key phrase that seems to have been ignored by Israeli spokesmen over the past 48 hours. You said that difficulties will arise, and I would like to examine the specifics with you. As far as we can recall 10 years after the fact, the Camp David Accords mentioned a 3-year interim period of autonomy. Are they now talking of shortening this period to 2 years?

[Rubinstein] As of yet there has been no talk about the duration of the autonomy. As far as we are concerned, the duration is something that is well known. The Camp David Accords mentioned a period of 5 years. But no one in Washington talked about details, content, or dates. The United States extended an invitation to me to try to examine the ideas in a general sense, namely to find out whether it is possible to discuss the content now rather than deal with procedure. As everyone knows, we have been bogged down over procedure due to differences of opinion in many parts of the world, including Israel.

[Margalit] But the fact that it is convenient for Israel, or at least for Mr Shamir, not to talk about procedure at the outset is self-evident, and they definitely did not need to invite you to Washington to find that out. It is clear that Mr Shamir wants to avoid the issue of procedure, seeing that it involves the question of an international umbrella or an international conference as the first step. This means that you must have discussed some specifics, too, such as, for example, the IDF pulling out of the [Arab] cities [in the territories].

[Rubinstein] There was no talk about any details whatsoever, only the overall conception, which I would be happy to tell you about.

[Margalit] Perhaps you discussed Soviet participation in the international umbrella?

[Rubinstein] We did not discuss procedural matters at all. We talked about the possibility of a political move. After all, the United States—and it is important that people realize this—has its own interests in mind. It wants to continue to play the role of leader in the Middle East political process, a role it has been playing for many years. I do not think the United States is too eager to share this role with partners.

Yet without getting into procedural questions, the issue the United States wished to sound out with us—with the entire Israeli Government and its representatives—was whether we are prepared for a political move in which the nature of the interim arrangement would be examined, with the proviso, I should add, that if the move proves successful and an interim arrangement is reached—the details of which have not yet been discussed or adopted—it would be followed shortly thereafter by negotiations on a permanent settlement. This is the gist of the matter, more or less.

I repeat, in reply to your very legitimate question, the answer to which, I am sure, each one of us including myself would like to know. At this stage, we do not fully know—and I believe neither do the Americans—the details of the content of these arrangements.

[Margalit] But, Mr Rubinstein, you know that there has been talk about the possibility that Philip Habib may visit the Middle East. There was even more talk about the possibility that on his way to Moscow, George Shultz will make a detour via the Middle East. To the best of your knowledge, have the Soviets been informed about what is going on?

[Rubinstein] I have heard nothing to indicate as much. The Soviets must, no doubt, be reading the same kind of material we have all been reading. But for the moment...

[Margalit, interrupting] Yet you are privy to some secret cables to which I have no access.

[Rubinstein] I have heard nothing about this. I can tell you that right now the nature of the move is an examination of the subject with us. It was also sounded out with the Egyptians during Mubarak's visit. And now, Habib is looking into it with Husayn. Once this examination is completed, which I believe will happen in the next few days, we will no doubt be approached with more concrete things. We have firm positions, after all.

[Margalit] What was the outcome of the examination of the matter with the Egyptians? After all, you were in the United States during Mubarak's visit there. Anyway—not that I am in any way suggesting that the Arabs should become more radical—why, in view of the fact that they had previously objected to this, should they accept it now merely because we are substituting the Hebrew term interim arrangement for the foreign word autonomy ?

[Rubinstein] Because politics is the art of the possible, and because in order to move the peace process forward—and there is no argument that everyone wants this—it is necessary to find a way, a path that is acceptable to all, and it is likewise necessary to find partners to join such a move. Just as there are difficulties for some partners on the Arab side, so there are very clear positions in Israel regarding the nature of the arrangements and what we can accept and not jeopardize our very existence. It seems to me that everyone—including the United States, the Arab world, and Israel—realizes that no process can be launched without something that will be called an interim settlement. As to the nature of that settlement, we raised our own suggestions after Camp David, and they have been discussed. Incidentally, some work has been done in this respect.

[Margalit] You have already said that some progress was made in these negotiations. I understand that at this stage the Israeli Government is virtually unanimous—and that, incidentally, is not an everyday occurrence—and that even Mr Peres agrees that this move should be explored, although presumably he has less faith in the parties' ability to reach an agreement on this basis than Mr Shamir.

[Rubinstein] Indeed, at the cabinet session today, it seems to me that while there were clearly different nuances and emphases, the general attitude was characterized by a positive approach toward an examination of the move, all the difficulties notwithstanding. Negotiations are never a rose garden, and besides, roses have thorns.

Thus, anyone with even a little experience in such matters has learned that it is still necessary to discuss a host of minute details. At the same time, if there is a consensus on the view that we need some sort of peace process to promote Israel's interests, and if others share this desire for their own reasons, why should we not examine this move?

[Margalit] Mr Rubinstein, I want to thank you very much. I expect that you will be facing lengthy negotiations, and I imagine that in light of the fact that you have already been nicknamed the whiz kid from Camp David, no doubt you will also participate in these negotiations.

Rabin Remarks on Physical Force in Territories

TA301259 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by defense correspondent Alan Ben-'Ami; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-'Ami] Mr Rabin, the policy of using physical force, of using truncheons, of beatings, has come in for criticism inside and outside Israel. Are you considering changing or stopping this policy?

[Rabin] Well, I believe that the policy that we adopted since the 4th or the 5th of January this year to face the new outbursts of violent public disorder in all forms was the right one. We use curfews, and instead of using arms we decided to use a military force that will operate relatively on a large scale in force, including beating, while the violence is going on, not after, not before.

[Ben-'Ami] There are widespread reports, eyewitness reports, even filmed reports, that soldiers carrying out violent activities, beating people up even when no violence, no demonstration is going on.

[Rabin] Well, I believe that there are exceptions, and we are taking actions against those who, we are aware, engage in them. I believe that the bulk of the soldiers of Israel are not involved in it.

[Ben-'Ami] You don't feel that that policy of using force is not slipping out of control, that commanders are not on top of their men, that they are not where they should be [passage indistinct].

[Rabin] As I said, there are exceptions, but by no means it presents, they present, that the way of the action of most of the soldiers and the units, because I see the results of their activities, and the results are good within the limit of the orders. When we used arms there was an outcry. Now we have changed. We are not using any firearms, only on rare instances, whenever immediate danger to the life of the soldiers is presented. We use instead force, including beatings, only during the violent activities of the segments of the population that are involved in it.

[Ben-'Ami] A final question, if I may: How do you feel personally about being portrayed today as perhaps the hard man in the Israeli Government, brutally indifferent to outside criticism?

[Rabin] Well, I can't say that I enjoy it, by no means, but I know that I have to carry my duty as a minister of defense, and to bring about tranquility to the territories, and under the present circumstances, I have to use force against violence.

Leftist Leader Advocates Palestinian State

TA301056 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0900 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] One of the leaders of the Progressive List for Peace is calling on all organizations and parties active in the Arab sector to unite for the goal of establishing a Palestinian state and against the Israeli occupation in the territories. This is stated by Attorney Kamal al-Dahr in remarks published in the movement's organ, AL-WATAN.

Further on Unrest, Incidents in Territories

Youths Try To Burn AL-NAHAR

TA291831 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1800 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] Extremist circles in the territories are waging a fierce battle against the pro-Jordanian newspaper AL-NAHAR, published in East Jerusalem. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that youths tried to burn AL-NAHAR issues on the Temple Mount today, but religious figures stopped them.

Circulars distributed in the territories and signed by the so-called Unified National Command of the Uprising urged a boycott of the pro-Jordanian newspaper and harm to staff employees. The new Palestinian radio station broadcasting from Syria has also carried similar calls.

AL-NAHAR editor-in-chief 'Uthman Halaq told our correspondent that the campaign against himself and his newspaper would not deter him or stop him from continuing to publish it.

Arab Shop Burned in Hebron

TA301021 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1000 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] An Arab's shop was set on fire in Hebron this morning when he tried to open it, thus violating the strike. This is reported by our correspondent Arye Gus.

Today there were disturbances in various places in Judaea and Samaria. Disturbances occurred and stone barricades were set up at the Hebron University. There were riots and stonethrowings in Ramallah. The rioters were dispersed with tear gas. There were riots also in the center of Nabulus and in the adjacent Balatah refugee camp. They were dispersed with tear gas and rubber bullets. A curfew was imposed on Balatah for a short while.

Nabulus Closed Military Area

TA301429 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1400 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] An IDF soldier was slightly injured by a stone in Nabulus. He was treated in a military facility.

A curfew was imposed on the Balatah refugee camp following riots which have been occurring there sporadically since this morning.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that Nabulus was declared a closed military area following riots and incidents of stone throwing. All reporters were ordered to leave the city.

Three wounded persons were brought to the city's Al-Ittihad hospital. Arab sources said one of them had been shot, but our correspondent was told by security sources that an initial investigation revealed that no firearms had been used in Nabulus today.

5 Wounded During Riots

TA301821 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1800 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] The riots in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip increased today, and our correspondent Arye Gus says that this can be linked to the call issued by nationalist bodies to demonstrate over the weekend. Among other things, these bodies urged demonstrations against what they termed Washington's schemes.

In Nabulus, five Arab residents were hurt by bullets fired by a border police officer while a demonstration was being dispersed. Our correspondent reports that 200 people, some of them masked, marched toward the military government building in the town. They flew the

Palestinian flag and threw empty bottles at the soldiers. Having failed to disperse the march with tear gas canisters and rubber bullets, and seeing that the demonstrators had almost reached the military government building, the border police officer fired five shots in their direction. Four demonstrators suffered leg wounds, and one was hit in the mouth by shrapnel. They were whisked away for treatment in town, and some of the demonstrators were detained.

Nabulus Curfew Lifted

TA301942 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] The IDF spokesman wishes to report that the Nabulus area previously declared closed for 3 hours has been reopened, following the lifting of the curfew.

IDF Takes Over Nabulus Casbah

TA010620 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] IDF troops entered the Nabulus casbah during the night in view of the disturbances there over the past few days. The troops took up positions on the rooftops and arrested dozens of people. Our correspondent Zohar Melamed accompanied the forces:

[Begin Melamed recording] The operation began in the wee hours of the night. At first bulldozers cleared stone barriers from the roads leading to the casbah and the main thoroughfares inside the casbah. Groups of soldiers took up positions on high buildings overlooking the area. Later, large IDF troops entered into the casbah. This is how the entry sounded [background noise].

As can be heard, the soldiers fired tear gas and rubber bullets and took over many rooftops inside the casbah. At dawn, when residents in the area which is still under curfew began to rise, the large number of IDF troops were already in control of the casbah. Many rioters were arrested during the night. At present, curfews remain in force in the town of Nabulus and in the nearby refugee camps of Balatah, 'Askar, and 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma'. [end recording]

Nobody was hurt throughout last night's operation, and quiet prevails in Nabulus at the moment.

'Reason' for Renewed Unrest

TA311145 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Excerpts] The Army imposed a curfew on downtown Nabulus this morning, after residents threw stones and burned tires.

At the same time, the curfew remains in force on the nearby Balatah refugee camp. [passage omitted]

In contrast, the Gaza Strip was reported quiet today, this after serious clashes between the army and hundreds of demonstrators in downtown Gaza city and Dayr al-Balah.

The reason for the fresh unrest appears to be the visit by Egyptian President Mubarak to Washington. The assessment by military sources is that Palestinian activists are intent on trying to keep the disturbances in the headlines.

Former Gaza Mayor Rashad al-Shawwa says the unrest in Gaza also stems from disappointment with the Mubarak visit.

[Begin Al-Shawwa recording] People in the occupied territories had put a lot of hope on the trip that Mr Mubarak, that President Mubarak, made to the United States. But after the meeting he had with Mr Reagan and Mr Shultz, they were very disappointed and they thought that no positive sign was given or was made by the United States Administration. They are very upset and again have lost hope. [end recording]

Al-Shawwa criticized the army's tough policy of dispersing demonstrations by force. He said the beatings and insults of the soldiers merely increased the tension in the Gaza Strip.

Gazan Seriously Wounded

TA301629 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] A Gaza resident who attempted to grab a soldier's weapon has been shot in the chest. Apparently, a 17-year-old woman was also slightly wounded during the shooting.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the incident took place about 2 hours ago in Gaza's Al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood. An IDF patrol ordered three residents to remove a barrier made of burning tires. One of them refused to do so, and attacked a soldier with an iron club. Another resident who tried to grab the patrol commander's weapon was shot. He was evacuated to the hospital in critical condition.

In the afternoon, IDF soldiers used clubs to disperse a crowd of about 50 youths in Falastin Square in Gaza. Several youths required treatment in the hospital. A few rioters were detained.

Jerusalem Rioters Detained

TA301758 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] The Jerusalem police have detained 11 persons suspected of rioting in the Shu'fat and 'Anata refugee camps in north Jerusalem. The incident occurred on Thursday night [28 January]. Residents of the camps were rounded up in one of the camps' lots where the detentions were made.

Knesset Member 'Oded Zucker charged that many were beaten while the detentions were being made, and that dozens required medical treatment. The Southern District Police spokesman said that the camps' residents were not beaten when the detentions were made, and if injured residents were brought to the hospital in East Jerusalem, they must have sustained the injuries during the riots.

'Terrorist' Cells in Ramallah

TA010548 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Security forces have captured two terror rings suspected of throwing bombs and firebombs at Israelis in the Ramallah area. At the same time, a Jewish settler from Bet El is now in critical condition from when his car was struck by a firebomb last night. More from Steve Rodan:

The terrorist cells were operating for more than a month in the Ramallah-Al-Birah area. Military sources say one cell is suspected of throwing two bombs at an Israeli bus on its way to the Jerusalem suburb of Pesagot on 3 December. The gang was also said to have placed an explosive charge near the refugee camp of Al-Am'ari on 26 December. The bomb was to have been activated while an army patrol passes. Military sources say there were no damage or injuries. The terrorist cell is also suspected of throwing a grenade at an Israeli military vehicle in Al-Birah.

A second terror ring is said to have thrown several firebombs this month: one at an Israeli military bus in downtown Ramallah on 12 January, another in the village of 'Ayn Yabrud near Ramallah, and the latest fire bombing on 17 January in Al-Birah.

Military sources say they are still investigating the case, but their announcement of the capture appeared to have a meaning of its own. It was meant to show that despite the current unrest, security forces are still able to solve terror crimes. [passage omitted]

2 Dead, 3 Wounded in 'Anabta

TA011011 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Two dead and three wounded people, apparently from the vicinity of the 'Anabta refugee camp, were brought to the hospital in Tulkarm. In reply to a question by our correspondent Arye Gus, military sources said the IDF is looking into the circumstances of the incident. [passage omitted]

2 Tulkarm Residents Killed

TA011122 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Two Tulkarm residents were killed this morning by shots fired by IDF soldiers. A young female who was seriously wounded by the shots was taken to a hospital in Israel.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that an Israeli vehicle ran into a demonstration near 'Anabta, on the Tulkarm-Nabulus road. The demonstrators threw stones at the car and the passengers opened fire at the demonstrators. Later, an IDF unit arrived on the scene and after trying to disperse the demonstrators with tear gas and rubber bullets, it proceeded to use firearms. A curfew has been imposed on 'Anabta and riots have started in Tulkarm.

In addition, our correspondent reports that four territories residents were wounded by IDF fire: two in the village of Bani Na'im in the Hebron Hills area, and two in the refugee camp in Janin. Three IDF soldiers were slightly wounded by stones in three places in Judaea and Samaria.

IDF To Ease Gaza Traffic

TA311711 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] The IDF will take measures to ease traffic conditions in the Gaza Strip. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the number of lanes at the Erez roadblock will be increased to ease the flow of traffic to and from the Gaza Strip. The IDF will likewise cut down the number of roadblocks erected at the entrances to the refugee camps.

Kalmanovich Charged With 'Aggravated Espionage'

TA010830 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] The indictment against Shabtay Kalmanovich was submitted in the Tel Aviv District Court today. The indictment contains charges of contact with a foreign agent, espionage, and aggravated espionage for Soviet intelligence.

The ITIM correspondent points out that a decision on the prosecutor's request to remand Kalmanovich in custody until completion of proceedings was postponed until next week at the request of his attorney.

King Husayn on U.S. Policy, PLO, 'Uprising'

JN292204 Amman Television Service in English 2012 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Interview with King Husayn by unidentified correspondents from the ABC Television Network and THE WASHINGTON POST in Amman; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Your Majesty, what is happening in the West Bank and Gaza appears to be a watershed, a profound change in the nature of the conflict there. Is that your view?

[King Husayn] This is indeed my view. There is a change. And so far as people in the occupied territories after 20 years of enduring the hardship of occupation and the denial of their rights appear to have spoken in a voice that they wish the world to hear, and chosen to lessen their reliance on others outside to speak for them.

[Correspondent] What do the tactics of the Israelis say to you? The tactic, first of all, of shooting and now the beatings?

[King Husayn] It really is tragic to receive the news of what is happening in the occupied territories. It indicates to me that the Israelis, unfortunately, although they live in this area, do not understand the people of the area, and certainly the people that they have controlled through occupation for the last 20 years.

[Correspondent] Does the fact that they are behaving in this manner make things more difficult, make negotiations more difficult, make peace more difficult?

[King Husayn] I believe it does because my fear is that violence and extremism breeds extremism, and we may be approaching the point in time when, with the loss of hope, reason, and logic will not find its way to the hearts and minds of people in this entire area.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty: When you say that people inside the territories are less reliant on others to express, to speak for them, does that include Jordan? Has something happened since the 9th of December, when the trouble began, that has in a way made your own long-standing efforts—I do not want to say less vital—but perhaps may put them in abeyance for a while? Is there anything that you can do right now?

[King Husayn] What I can describe the situation as is in the following way: Palestinians over many, many years relied on their Arab brethren, governments, and states to help them secure their rights—67, 73. Beyond that point they might have relied also on the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the people of Palestine. But with lack of progress towards attaining a just, comprehensive peace, there came a time when they have reacted themselves to occupation. This is a new situation that we have seen.

[Correspondent] What...[changes thought] You, over a long period of years, Your Majesty, you have been increasingly critical of the American role or lack of it. Now that things do seem to have blown up, this watershed...[changes thought] Has a chapter been closed on American relations with the Palestinian people, with Jordan? How would you describe what has happened? Where do you think we are going in those relations, relationship?

[King Husayn] I cannot say that a chapter is closed now. But regretfully, I say—and I have been a long time friend of the United States—that the United States' position, policies in the recent past have caused me to not only feel regret, pain, and anguish, but discouragement. The United States certainly in my view was not and is not acting either in the Arab interest, or the Israeli interest, or its own national interests, and certainly not in the interest of establishing a just and durable peace in this area. This we have seen develop and evolve and the question of credibility is vital in terms of relations between nations. The United States have lost very much of its credibility, if not all. One would hope that this would change, but one can only hope I suppose. What seems to have happened is that the United States appears to be more and more under the influence of the extreme elements, the short-sighted elements, even in the Israeli society, and by that I mean their influence is tremendous over decisionmakers, policymakers of the United States. So, we unfortunately miss seeing the United States as it really ought to be, the superpower, the neutral power, the power for justice, for peace in this area in the interests of all concerned.

[Correspondent] Recently some of the prominent members of the American Jewish community have been very critical of Israel's tactics. Do you take some comfort from that?

[King Husayn] I do indeed, I do indeed. And I have in fact every hope that what is happening on the ground, the shock of it, might cause many to reconsider their positions and attitudes. I hope this will be the case on the Israeli scene as well, because after all what is at stake is the future of generations to come, both Arab and Jewish as well.

[Correspondent] President Mubarak is currently in Washington; he sees President Reagan tomorrow. Do you have any hopes at all for the Mubarak plan and the Mubarak visit?

[King Husayn] I coordinate very closely with President Mubarak. I know him to be a man of great integrity; I know his concern for the Palestinian people and the fact that he is an Arab nationalist. I know his commitment to the cause of a just and durable peace in this area. One would hope that he would be heard and that his warnings and his appeals will be effective. But there has been so many disappointments in the past. Well, one has to be an optimist and I hope that it will work this time.

[Correspondent] It sounds to me as though you don't think he has got all that much clout in Washington?

[King Husayn] I do not say that. I believe that he does have a lot of clout and he certainly has a lot of moral courage, and he voices his opinions in a very clear manner. But a lot depends on Washington, really, at this point in time. And I believe that President Mubarak is trying to point out the dangerous situation and at the same time trying to seek a new American position, or revitalize the American position, particularly as it pertains to the international conference, which we have been striving to see come into being to resolve this problem comprehensively.

[Correspondent] You sound, when you describe what is happening in the territories, when you describe your disillusionment with the United States, it sounds as almost you are talking about something that passed, is it? The book has not been closed, perhaps the chapter has not been closed, but the page seems to be turned. Do you, as you look ...[changes thought] Your commitment to the international conference, as laudable as it is, do you think at this point when all this turmoil is going on and this confrontation—the historic confrontation is going on next door—is this really the time to push ahead on the diplomatic scene, or is it almost time one has to step back—as unpleasant as it may be—and wait for better times?

[King Husayn] There won't be better times. That is the sad reality. I do not believe that there will be better times unless there is progress in trying to resolve the whole problem once and for all.

[Correspondent] But here we have the Reagan administration and Mr Shultz in their final months. They seem to wish to avoid any kind of active role especially here, in the Palestinian question. Do you think that it is realistic that they will suddenly see the light, or see the light as you wish them to?

[King Husayn] Well, it is certainly a wish and a hope but we have always had some elections of some nature or another, either in the United States or in Israel throughout the many years that have passed. However, one still hopes somehow that whenever people are in a position of responsibility, they will be concerned with their record, with what they leave behind. And I hope that there may still be a chance for the administration of the United States to leave behind something worthwhile to be remembered by in this part of the world.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, I wonder if I can ask you a bit about the possible consequences of the uprisings in your own country. You have a lot of Palestinians here. You have a lot of refugees here. Is there any fear that you may have of any kind of spillover? I have read there have been recent arrests of Palestinians.

[King Husayn] No, we have no problem here. At least we have not had any problem here in any form or way. And I believe that Jordan has been pivotal in trying to bring the entire Arab world together. And it is in its own best interest to defend the Arab future, to in a way support the cause of the Arabs and in particular, obviously, so all the many years that have passed, the rights of our brethren the Palestinians under occupation and the rights of the Palestinians, legitimate rights as we have recognized them and fought to secure them. There is no problem. The problem is in the occupied territories. The problem is in the continuation of occupation. The problem is in the lack of the progress toward a solution. The problem is in a prime minister who says I want peace, but, in place. Peace that means that the West Bank remains under Israeli control, that Gaza remains under Israeli control, that all the Arab territories remain under Israeli control. Yet, peace, and at the same time claims to have no preconditions.

[Correspondent] For at least a year now I have been hearing people say that the whole notion of the exchange of territory for peace is a dead issue. The Israelis are on the West Bank. They are going to stay. Does it ever occur to you that maybe there has to be some other way out, other than territory for peace?

[King Husayn] I do not believe there is any other way, and again I know of many who have written in the United States Jordan is Palestine. I voiced that slogan many years ago. Jordan was Palestine. Palestine was Jordan. We are all members of one family. But, and I say it again now, we are one family. Yet, does that end the problem? It does not end it. The problem is there. The problem of the rights of people in their territory occupied since June of 1967, Palestinian rights on their soil. And unless the problem is addressed in that manner, there is no solution.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, you talked about extremists in the United States. Could you spell out for us exactly who you mean [words indistinct]. Who are these people? And what kinds of things are they doing that cause you so much upset?

[King Husayn] Well, for one thing, we still have this situation where you have an alliance between the greatest power in this world and the state that is in occupation of Arab territories, that denies people their rights, supported right or wrong, and supported militarily and in every respect. And not even is the American position one where there is a balanced approach towards maybe two schools of thought in Israel. It seems to be, to me, as if the decisionmakers in many cases are under the influence of the extremists in Israel, people who cannot see beyond tomorrow and to after tomorrow let alone years from now. And this is a very dangerous situation that unfortunately cannot be accepted or tolerated.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, can you...[changes thought] Who are these decisionmakers in Washington who you feel are under the influence of extremists in Israel?

[King Husayn] Well, in one area, you have obviously the problem between Congress and the administration. That is your own internal problem but is fairly evident and obvious to many of us around the world. On the other hand, there is a problem. For a number of years, for example, for we have told that the administration had its fingers burned in Lebanon. That might have been the case. But I for one and my government warned our friends in Washington time and again before that happened of the consequences of American policy in Lebanon. It was not our fault that things went wrong there tragically. And we really suffer and will continue to suffer until a solution is found to the Lebanese dilemma. On the other hand, it has been years. And in particular in the recent years I had been warning against the situation deteriorating in the occupied territories and hope being lost and our being on the verge of a crisis. Well, the crisis is now upon us. It is a fact that people in a position of authority in the United States are unable, unfortunately, to exercise the powers that they have to influence events in a way a constructive direction to achieve a comprehensive, lasting peace in this area.

[Correspondent] Do you believe, Your Majesty, that Middle East policy is a domestic American policy rather than an international or world policy. There are some people who feel that, basically, the Middle East is not a foreign policy for the United States, it is a domestic political one ...

[King Husayn, interrupting] This is my feeling or my understanding, and I have been a student of this scene for many, many years.

[Correspondent] Could you spell out exactly how that takes form, what form it takes?

[King Husayn] Well, take the United States attitude as it evolved toward Jordan over the recent past. We are still, I suppose, friends, but nowhere is there the kind of relationship that existed between us in the past. Certainly there is not the reliance on our side on friends where we stood by through many years, or stood together through many phases in the life of this entire area. On the other hand, it is fairly obvious that the effect of Israel in terms of domestic policies of the United States is extremely clear, in terms of total support to Israel, right or wrong. Look at the Security Council. Even the recent very welcome resolution regarding events in the occupied territories, and then immediately a statement to the effect that this would be the last resolution against Israel. Well, how do you know what Israel is going to do next? To me it is incomprehensible, really, how this can continue in a way, or can be constructive, or is in the best interest of the United States and the image of the United States in the world.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, do you feel particularly bitter about the events of last fall when there was the secret diplomacy about having you and Shamir join Gorbachev and Reagan in Washington—and that, as we all know didn't happen, but the story has come out. Do you feel that you were set up there?

[King Husayn] Well, it didn't happen, and so I was not set up there, but again I was faced with a very strange situation. For years now we have said that we need an international conference with the attendance of the five to avoid polarization between the two superpowers supporting one or the other side to the conflict here. And the United States position has been against the Soviet participation because it echoed Israel's position in that regard. And suddenly we find the three dropped and a new idea come out for only the two superpowers to oversee a situation develop which is far from the international conference that we sought. There is no consistency, unfortunately, there is no long-range view that is translated into policy that people can feel and accept.

[Correspondent] When I said did you feel that you were set up, it didn't happen, but there are some people who feel that the thing was presented to you knowing full well that you would say no and then they would say: See, he is not really serious. Because, I suppose one could say: Does it really matter if the French, and the Chinese, and the British apart, can't the two superpowers do it?

[King Husayn] Yes, I did feel that I was set up. And I somehow understood that what was expected of me was to accept, to commit political suicide if I had answered in the affirmative, and I would not have answered in any event. But then it was fairly obvious.

[Correspondent] Whose idea do you think that was, Your Majesty?

[King Husayn] I haven't a clue, sir.

[Correspondent] You mentioned U.S. policy in Lebanon, you mentioned this effort last fall, don't those policies bear the mark of the secretary of state, Mr Shultz. Do you feel Mr Shultz has been an effective secretary, do you think that he has understood the area?

[King Husayn] I believe that only time, sir, will judge any of us in positions of responsibility, either here, or in the United States or anywhere else in the world.

[Correspondent] Let me put the question to you in this way, in a more general sense. Do you think that, given that the fact this is an election year in America, that is realistic to expect this or any administration to take hard decisions on the Middle East?

[King Husayn] If you think of the United States the way I used to think of it years ago, yes I would think that anything is possible. But unfortunately we faced many disappointments. Yet, one has to live with hope.

[Correspondent] Could we put a final thing about the facts to stability in the Kingdom. You have produced one of the Arab world's most astoundingly rich and diverse intellegentsias. You have many educated people. Some of these people, I'm told, feel very frustrated, especially now. They understand why one must be very careful when one is a neighbor of...[changes thought] One has the neighbors you have in this part of the world, but I understand there is a kind of frustration, that they are not allowed more freedom, more scope to express in a quiet way, but a clear way, their solidarity with what is going on in the territories. Is this.. [changes thought] this gets us back to the question of some of these arrests, but it's almost a counterpoint to the arrests. A lot of people who are well educated and politically mature people feel frustrated.

[King Husayn] I do not believe this to be the case. And people are expressing their feelings in the most constructive way possible. And if we refer to arrests that is probably a reference to the leadership of the PFLP here in Jordan, which received instructions from the leadership outside this country to utilize what was happening in the occupied territories to the best possible effect to undermine the stability of Jordan. I believe that the answer to the efforts of either this particular group or others is by the awareness of Jordanians of what they should do to help their brethren in the occupied territories, which they are doing to the best of their ability, and obviously, not to distract from the effectiveness of the actions taken by people in the occupied territories under duress by creating situations that are not in the interests of Jordanians or Jordan's stability or Arab stability, but would be in effect undermining the struggle of the people under occupation when things have reached the boiling point there.

[Correspondent] I understand for the first time since the Amman summit, some high-ranking officials from the PLO are about to arrive in the Kingdom. How would you describe the relationship of the government with the PLO, given the 6 weeks of turmoil next door in the territories.

[King Husayn] Well, I beleive that a group representing the PLO leadership may already have arrived in Jordan. And again if they have done so, we will continue our dialogue. However, I made it very clear, as did my government during the Arab summit in Amman and following the summit when we had a meeting with the leadership of the PLO that we are perfectly happy and willing to continue our dialogue from the point that we had reached before that dialogue ended earlier. We are not prepared to go back to point zero and start again. And I hope that they have arrived or will have arrived with this understanding. And I hope, as I have always done, that the PLO may be able to reflect the hopes and aspiratiosn and feelings of people in the occupied territories and act in the responsible manner that the situation demands. And I hope that we will be able to work togehter. We certainly are open to that if they are on their side.

[Correspondent] But nothing has changed. The events of the past 6 weeks have not in the territories—has not changed your attitude towards the PLO, or their attitude towards you. Do you think that these events have been so cataclysmic one might have conjectured...

[King Husayn, interrupting] I believe that everyone has had a jolt in terms of what has happened, not in terms of the fact that it was unexpected but as to the way has happened. Well, it is a time for the PLO to reassess. It is a time for all of us to reassess. And it is an opportunity. If there is a real, genuine concern for people in the occupied territories under plight and for a solution to the problem, hopefully, we will be on the threshold of a new beginning. On the other hand, you are probably aware also that there was a meeting of Arab League and that there is a committee of seven now to achieve coordination between Arab states and the PLO and to continue to do whatever is possible to serve the cause of establishing a just, durable peace on the basis of previous Arab summit resolutions, including the one in Amman.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much

[King Husayn] Thank you sir.

U.S. Special Envoy Habib Arrives for Talks

King Husayn Receives Envoy

JN301523 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Amman, 30 Jan (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn received U.S. President Ronald Reagan's envoy Philip Habib at Al-Nadwah Palace today. Habib conveyed a message to his majesty from President Reagan on recent developments in the Middle East in general and the occupied Arab territories in particular.

Attending the meeting were Zayd al-Rifa'i, prime minister; Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Court; 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, court minister; Staff Field Marshal Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces; and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

Minister Rejects Proposal

NC011110 Paris AFP in English 1042 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Amman, Feb 1 (AFP)—A senior Jordanian official Monday rejected a U.S. initiative on the Israeli-occupied territories, charging that it failed to meet both Arab and Palestinian objectives.

Marwan Dudin, Jordanian minister for the occupied territories, was speaking to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESS shortly after the departure for the United States of U.S. special envoy Philip Habib.

Mr. Habib on Saturday delivered a message to King Husayn from U.S. President Ronald Reagan on the violence on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, where Israeli troops have killed at least 34 Palestinians since December 9.

The United States, according to Israeli press reports, has proposed the opening of an international Middle East peace conference followed by talks on an autonomy plan for the occupied territories.

The talks would be attended by Israeli and Jordanian officials as well as Palestinian representatives from the territories.

Mr. Dudin said the idea was "unacceptable" because it responded neither to "the aspirations of the Palestinians nor to an Arab consensus."

He noted that Arab states back an international conference, under United Nations auspices, with the participation of all concerned parties, including the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

Arab states in the past, with the exception of Egypt, have refused to endorse peace moves that offered the Palestinians autonomy but not the option of exercising sovereignty over the West Bank and Gaza.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, A staunch opponent of an international conference attended by the Soviet Union and the PLO, reacted positively to the U.S. plan.

Israel radio reported Sunday that Mr. shamir accepted the idea of a "24-hour international opening" as a prelude to direct talks between Israel, Jordan and Palestinian representatives from the territories.

King Husayn Departs for Rome 'Working Visit'

JN311545 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Amman, 31 Jan (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur left Amman today for Rome on a working visit to Italy. During the visit, His Majesty King Husayn will meet with Italian President Francesco Cossiga, Prime Minister Giovanni Goria, and with Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti. He will also meet with Pope John Paul II in the Vatican.

His Majesty King Husayn's visit to Italy is within the framework of a tour of a number of European states. King Husayn will hold talks with the leaders of these states on developments in the region, current Arab issues, and efforts to bolster the peace process in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

Al-Rifa'i Visits Damascus 'Unannounced'

JN310838 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0735 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Dubayy, 31 Jan (WAKH)—Press reports in Dubayy said today that Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i paid an unannounced visit to Damascus last Thursday during which he met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

AL-BAYAN in its issue today cites informed sources in the Jordanian capital as saying that Al-Rifa'i briefed the Syrian president on the results of the mediation visit King Husayn paid to Baghdad to prevent a deterioration of relations between Syria and Iraq.

Further Reportage on Talks With Palestinians

Meeting Held 29 Jan

JN292026 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, we have just received the following: The Jordanian side headed by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, and the Palestinian delegation led by member of the PLO Executive Committee Mahmud 'Abbas, held a third meeting at the prime minister's office this evening. The two sides discussed during the meetings the Arab-Israeli conflict in an atmosphere of frankness and responsibility. They discussed means of achieving a just and comprehensive settlement to the conflict.

The two sides hailed the popular uprising of our people in the occupied Arab lands and stressed the need to support them and to coordinate the Jordanian-Palestinian work in the seven-man Arab committee, which was set up by the Arab foreign ministers meeting held in Tunis early this month.

The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, Minister of Occupied Land Affairs Marwan Dudin, Minister of Interior Raja'i al-Dajani, and Minister of Information Dr Hani al-Khasawinah.

On the Palestinian side, the talks were attended by Mr 'Abdallah al-Hurani, Mr 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahiya, Mr 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad, Mr Muhammad Milhim, and Mr Hani al-Hasan.

PLO Says Talks 'Positive'

JN301045 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Jan 88 pp 1, 19

[By Sa'd al-Silwai]

[Text] Amman—'Abdallah Hurani, PLO Executive Committee member and member of the Palestinian delegation visiting Jordan, has said that the talks held

between the Jordanian side led by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and the Palestinian side led by Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, were positive and friendly.

In a statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, 'Abdallah Hurani said: The two sides reviewed very clearly and frankly the events of the past stage in Jordanian-Palestinian relations. He asserted that the latest Arab and international developments brought about by the popular uprising in the occupied Arab territory have occupied an important part of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks.

Hurani said that the popular uprising in the occupied territory has begun to yield international results. He added that it has also created differences within Israel and brought about the resignation of many members of Israel's Labor and Likud parties. He asserted that the results of the uprising include the three resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council in the past 3 months and the positive stands adopted by the West European states.

Referring to the U.S. stand, Hurani said: The fact that the United States has not opposed the adoption of resolutions by the Security Council is due to U.S. awareness of the problem. He said all channels of U.S. television are showing the repression and savage actions committed by the occupation forces against the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied Arab territory, and that is likely to bring about changes within U.S. society in favor of the Palestinian question.

In conclusion Hurani said: The foundations of Arab-Palestinian relations and Jordanian-Palestinian relations were laid down at the Amman summit and the Arab foreign ministers meeting recently held in Tunis.

Statement Issued

JN301125 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] A press statement was issued in Amman yesterday. The statement summed up the results of the talks held between the Jordanian side led by brother Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and the Palestinian side led by brother Mahmud 'Abbas, PLO Executive Committee member. The statement notes that in the 3-day meetings the two sides reviewed the Arab-Zionist conflict in an atmosphere of complete fraternal frankness and with high spirit of responsibility. The two sides discussed ways to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement of this conflict. They greeted the uprising of the Palestinians in the occupied territory. The two sides affirmed the need for supporting the Palestinians. They also affirmed the importance of coordinating the work of the two sides in the seven-member Arab committee stemming from the Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Tunis to support the kinfolk's steadfastness and to end the occupation.

Seven-Member Committee To Meet

JN301129 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] Amman—SAWT AL-SHA'B has learned that Jordan has officially asked to host the seven-member Arab committee formed by the Arab foreign ministers conference during their recent extraordinary meeting in Tunis. It has also learned that the committee will meet in Amman soon to draw up an action plan for serving the Palestinian cause in light of the blessed popular uprising, and to intensify contacts and support efforts to convene an international peace conference.

The statement issued last night on the meetings of the Jordanian-Palestinian sides emphasized the importance of coordinating action by the two sides in the committee.

Hurani Holds News Coference

JN311238 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 31 Jan 88 pp 1, 20

[By Sa'd al-Wilawi]

[Text] Amman—'Abdallah Hurani, PLO Executive Committee member and member of the Palestinian delegation in the Jordaninan-Palestinian talks, has said that the two sides agreed to continue the dialogue between Jordan and the PLO.

In a news conference yesterday at the PNC offices following the conclusion of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks, Hurani stressed that the talks were extremely frank and were carried out with a high degree of responsibility.

He said that what is going on now in the occupied territories will speed up coordination between Jordan and the PLO on the one hand and between the PLO and the Arab countries on the other.

He said: "We came to Amman as a result of the Amman summit resolutions which called for cooperation, solidarity, and coordination between all the Arab parties, and also as a response to the recommendations of the Arab foreign minister's conference held recently in Tunisia."

He stressed the need for coordinating and unifying Arab efforts following the developments on the Palestinian arena; namely, the uprising of our kinfolk in the occupied Arab territories and the impact of this uprising in the international arena. He said that the three Security Council resolutions constitute a new development in the stand of the international community, and particularly in the West European stand as they supported Palestinian rights and did not stop at a call for ending the Israeli authorities' oppression against our kinfolk in the occupied homeland.

Hurani went on to say: "Our visit to Jordan and our meetings with Jordanian officials came within the framework of the PLO's Arab drive aimed at crystallizing a common and unified Arab stand to be the basis for Arab moves in the international arena." The aim, he said, is to speed up the convening of the international conference on the basis of maintaining Palestinian rights including the right of self determination, the creation of a Palestinian state, and the immediate Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. These principles were agreed upon in all Arab summits of which the Amman summit was the latest.

More on News Conference

JN302033 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1845 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Amman, 30 Jan (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani has said: We have not come to Amman either to discuss the reactivation of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement or to discuss the idea of concluding a new Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. We have come here to discuss recent developments brought about by the uprising in the occupied territories. The discussion was held within the framework of the moves being effected by the PLO in the Arab arena to crystallize an Arab stand that can serve as a basis for convening a peace conference. This peace conference will be based on the resolutions adopted at the Arab summits in Fes, Casblanca, and Amman. Those resolutions aimed to bring about an Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab and Palestinian territories and realizing the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights. These rights include their right to self-determination and to the establishment of their independent national state.

In a press conference held at the PNC's precincts in Jabal Amman today, Hurani added: Our talks with the Jordanian brothers focused on the recent developments. Frankly, the talks did not start "from the phase that has been reached" as it is said, as there are new developments represented by the Amman summit resolutions as well as those issued by the Arab ministerial council in Tunis. He added: First and foremost, there is the uprising and the results being brought about by this uprising in the international arena. This uprising has resulted in the issuance of three resolutions by the UN Security Council. He went on to say: This constitutes a new development in the international community's stand. For the first time, the Palestinian people are referred to as a people in these resolutions. The term "occupied Palestinian and Arab territories" including Jerusalem are also mentioned in these resolutions for the first time. These resolutions also called for bringing about a withdrawal from occupied Arab territories. They also referred to Israel as "an occupation authority" for the first time. Also of importance are the developments witnessed in the European stand reflected in David Mellor's statements and also through the stands aodpted by the UK in general, France, and other states. We must not forget the developments of the situation in the U.S. arena—the developments represented by the United States' voting in favor of the UN Security Council resolution and also by highlighting news items related to the uprising on the U.S. television networks. This means that changes and developments have also been brought about within American society.

Hurani described President Mubarak's initiative as one offered to international and Israeli public opinion. He added: Let us see the Israeli and U.S. stands toward this initiative. To the best of my knowledge, the Israeli and U.S. sides have rejected this initiative and failed to display any enthusiasm for it. As for the PLO, the right to self-determination and the international conference are fundamental elements. He added: We reject UN Security Council Resolution 242 because it is inadequate and deals with the Arab-Israeli conflict and not with the Palestine question. We will reject any resolution that does not tackle Palestinian national rights and the right to self-determination. He asserted that the PLO wants to participate in the international peace conference. He added: We have not discussed the issue of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation [to the peace conference], as the international conference was not seriously discussed by the two superpowers. Unless an agreement is secured on the international conference, we will not anticipate events and we should not have differences over which party will have the wolf's skin before it is skinned.

Hurani went on to say: Jordanian-Palestinian relations have not been good. So, do not expect a few days or a few sessions to resolve issues. Therefore, we spoke to each other with the utmost frankness and with a sense of responsibility and we also agreed to continue our consultations. He denied that 'Arafat's visit to Jordan was discussed. He said that the seven-member committee will meet and discuss moves at the UN Security Council, as the uprising was assessed by the Arab League Council, which has held its meetings in Tunis.

AL-DUSTUR Reports on Meeting

JN311110 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 31 Jan 88 pp 1, 23

[By Tal'at Shanna'ah]]

[Text] Amman—Jordan and the PLO have agreed to support the popular uprising in the occupied territory within the framework of a joint Arab campaign to convene a Middle East peace conference.

The Jordanian and Palestinian sides described their 3-day talks, which ended the day before yesterday in Amman, as constructive. They said that further consultations will be held.

Information Minister Dr Hani al-Khasawinah said: We agreed to back the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza and coordinate our stands within the seven-member Arab committee. The doors are open for other meetings.

The two sides said that they want to conven an international peace conference under the supervision of the UN as agreed on at the Amman summit last November.

'Abdallah Hurani, member of the PLO Executive committee, said the PLO hopes that world sympathy for the uprising would lead to a peace conference.

Hurani said he hopes the uprising would persuade the U.S. and Israel to give up their opposition to PLO participation in an international conference. He added: We hope the uprising would succeed where diplomacy had failed.

Addressing a news conference yesterday, Hurani linked the Jordan-PLO talks with the Arab foreign ministers' decision a week ago to form a seven-member committee, including the representatives of Jordan and the PLO, to explain Arab peace strategy.

Hurani said that the idea of a "return ship" came after the UN Security Council resolution condemning the Israeli occupation authorites for deporting several Palestinians from their homeland.

Hurani added: The idea of a return ship has come not just against the deportation of the nine Palestinians, but against the whole principle of deportation. The Security Council's condemnation of the Israeli decision has helped the emergence of this idea.

Hurani said: We are definitely aiming at a return, not merely of the 100 or so deportees, but of all Palestinians who have been expelled from their homeland.

Replying to a question concerning Israel's position on the "return ship", Hurani said he does not expect Israel to welcome the idea, since it has already flouted the Security Council resolution and immediately deported four Palestinians.

Hurani said: We are seeking a return and this is a right based on international legality. The "return ship" will set sail on 10 February.

Hurani said: Marrack Goulding, the envoy of the secretary general of the UN, submitted a report in which he referred to the substance of the problem; namely, the occupation and the Palestinians' right to self- determiantion. Based on this report, the secretary general submitted his own report in which he championed the Palestinians' right to self-determiantion and Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories.

The seven-member Arab committee will study the mechanism for moving internationally in the Security Council and toward crystallizing an international stand based on the secretary general's report.

Hurani explained that the point of disagreement is with Washignton, not Moscow. He pointed out that it is the U.S. stand which conflicts with the international will by supporting Israeli policy.

PLO Delegation Leaves

JN311241 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1207 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Amman—A PLO delegation left Amman at noon today following a visit of several days to Jordan. During the visit, the delegation held talks with Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and a number of officials dealing with various aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict and ways to achieve a just and comprehensvie settlement of this conflict.

During the talks, the Jordanian and Palestinian sides stressed the importance of coordination in the Arab seven-member committee formed by the Arab foreign ministers conference which was held in Tunis recently with the aim of serving the kinfolk in the occupied territories, ending the occupation, and supporting the kinfolk's uprising there. The delegation, which comprised PLO Executive Committee members Mahmud 'Abbas and 'Abdallah Hurani, was seen off by Marwan Dudin, minister of occupied territories affairs; Nabih al-Nimr, Foreign Ministry under secretary; and 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yhaya, PLO representative in Amman.

Further Developments in Schray Kidnapping

Syrians Send Mediators

NC291344 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] There are no new developments in connection with the kidnapping of FRG engineer Ralph Schray in West Beirut 2 days ago, despite the political and security-related efforts being made. An Internal Security Forces source told AFP today that the Syrian command in Beirut is sending mediators to those who are believed responsible for the kidnapping in order to make them change their minds. The source said that the mediators are bringing a strongly-worded message calling for the early release of Schray and stressing that the incident has done great damage to the Syrian security plan for Beirut.

The source said that if Syrian efforts fail, chief Syrian observer Brigadier General 'Ali Hammud will resort to tougher measures. Syrian troops, the source added, are manning checkpoints and patrolling West Beirut, but have not yet searched any houses or arrested any suspects.

Iran Not Involved

NC291628 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] A senior source in a Shi'ite militia said today that the kidnapping of FRG citizen Ralph Schray to put pressure on Bonn to release 'Abbas and Muhammad Hamadah was planned by supporters of Iran without Tehran's knowledge. The source told REUTER that the Iranians had nothing to do with the kidnapping because it is not in their interest. Iran is currently working to improve relations with the FRG, he stated.

Schray's relatives had said earlier that a senior official in a Shi'ite militia had informed them that Hizballah official 'Abd al-Hadi Hamadah is behind the kidnapping, which is aimed at putting pressure on Bonn to release his brothers, 'Abbas and Muhammad Hamadah.

The Shi'ite source noted that relations between 'Abd al-Hadi Hamadah and Iran have become tense lately after a three-article pact failed last month. The deal involved the release of FRG hostage Rudolf Cordes and Muhammad 'Ali Hamadah. He attributed the failure of the bargain to Iran's last-minute demand that the FRG supply it with arms, spare parts, and chemical weapons.

The same source noted that there are differences in the interests of Iran, which is currently focusing on improving ties with Bonn, and the kidnappers, who see the kidnapping of Schray as a new means of securing the release of the Hamaddah brothers.

Syria's Kan'an Arrives

NC300845 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of Syrian intelligence in Lebanon, arrived in Beirut yesterday to secure the release of West German national Ralph Schray and has begun his activities in this regard. According to information received by the Voice of Lebanon, Kan'an is carrying clear instructions from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to Hizballah to release Schray immediately. Kan'an stressed to Hizballah leaders that the Syrian leadership's ultimatums are serious and that their consequences will be harsh.

Kan'an instructed all Syrian roadblocks in West Beirut and at the entrances to the southern suburb to check all identities and to detain Hizballah members who are involved in the kidnapping of foreigners or who belong to Hizballah's security organ.

According to security information received by the Voice of Lebanon, the Hizballah leadership has instructed all its members not to leave the southern suburb, to avoid passing through the Syrian roadblocks, and, if they must pass through them, to get rid of all papers and documents that prove their relationship with Hizballah. The party leadership has also placed its members on a state of maximum alert and told them that this is a precautionary measure, for the southern suburb is a red line which the Syrian Army should not cross. The reports add that in its contacts with the Syrian command, Hizballah leaders have denied being behind the kidnapping of Schray, saying that the party is not the only one in West Beirut.

It has been learned that Hizsballah's spiritual guide, Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, has been in Al-Biqa' since yesterday.

Release Expected 'Soon'

NC301445 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Syria expects that FRG hostage Ralph Schray will soon be released, and it rejects any delay over this matter. REUTER has cited a pro-Syrian source as saying that the Syrians are about to take firm and crucial measures in this regard and that they will not accept any compromise or delay. This Syrian stand has been conveyed to all parties concerned.

According to a Muslim security source, the Syrians are saying that the German national will be released within 5 days.

Contacts, 'Headway' Noted

LD301723 Kuwait KUNA in English 1546 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Beirut, Jan 30 (KUNA)—Head of Syria's military intelligence in Lebanon Brig. Ghazi Kan'an is leading high level contacts Saturday to secure the release of foreign hostages in Lebanon, a security source said.

The efforts are primarily targeting the release of West German engineer Ralph Schray who was abducted three days ago in a West Beirut area patrolled by Syrian troops, the source said.

Meanwhile, a relative of Schray told KUNA contacts for the release of the 31-year-old West German national had made a headway.

The relative who wished not to be named said Schray was expected to be freed within a week at the latest.

The Syrian troops who entered West Beirut last February to quell inter-Muslim militia fighting Saturday erected additional roadblocks in the area and inspected cars.

AL-SAFIR newspaper reported that Syrian officials gave mediators a "tough message" that they should secure the release of Schray because his abduction undermined Syria's security plan in West Beirut.

If pressures on the kidnappers failed to be productive, Syria is likely to take tougher action, the paper said.

10 Arrested for Questioning

NC310659 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Security sources in West Beirut do not expect the Syrians to be able to secure the release of FRG hostage Ralph Schray in the next 5 days because they have not obtained any clues leading to the discovery of the place to which the hostage has been taken.

A source close to Damascus has stated that the Syrians are talking about securing his release in 5 days.

Citing a pro-Syrian source, REUTER said that the Syrians are in the process of taking strict and firm measures to secure the release of Schray as soon as possible if the problem is not resolved peacefully.

Meanwhile, Syrian forces have continued their search. They have stormed some Hizballah centers and arrested 10 persons, taking them to Al-Biqa' for interrogation.

Kan'an: 'No More Obstacles'

NC311243 Paris AFP in English 1222 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Beirut, Jan 31 (AFP)—The release of West German kidnap victim Ralph Schray is "just a matter of time," General Ghazi Kan'an, director of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon, was quoted as saying here Sunday.

Gen. Kan'an, who arrived in Beirut Friday to supervise the search for Mr. Schray, said "there are no more obstacles" to the release of the 31-year-old engineer, Lebanese security sources told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

They quoted the general as saying that the matter "is nearly resolved and (Mr. Schray's) release is just a matter of time."

Syria, which maintains 10,000 troops in West Beirut under its pacification plan, launched a major drive to secure Mr. Schray's freedom after his abduction by armed gunmen last Wednesday. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Denies Connection

NC311754 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, head of Syrian intelligence in Lebanon, has stated that the kidnapping of FRG national Ralph Schray is nearly resolved, and that his release is just a matter of time.

Kan'an's statement was quoted by a Lebanese security source. The source told AFP that Kan'an, who arrived in Beirut last Friday to supervise the resolution of the matter personally, stated that there are no more obstacles to the release of Schray. Kan'an described his contacts with the parties concerned as positive. However, he declined to identify these parties.

Meanwhile, a Hizballah source this afternoon denied that Hizballah has any connection with Schray's kidnapping.

Shams al-Din Says All Hostages 'Still Alive'

NC300636 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Supreme Shi'ite Islamic Council, has stated that Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite and the other hostages in Lebanon are still alive. Describing the hostage issue as complicated, he pointed out that steady efforts are being exerted to resolve this issue, but that it is difficult to fix a precise time for resolving it.

Al-Turk Dismisses Newspaper Report on Hostages

NC302105 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Ambassador Fu'ad al-Turk, the Foreign Ministry secretary general, has denied reports published by the INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE to the effect that the Iranian Embassy political adviser in Beirut told him that the solution of the hostage issue is contingent on the end of the Gulf war. Al-Turk reiterated that the question of the hostages was not discussed during his meeting with the political adviser.

Kidnapped French Girls To Be Released 'Soon'

NC311720 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Lucien Bitterlin, head of the French-Arab Friendship Society, arrived in Beirut this afternoon on a mission to bring about the release of two French girls held captive by Abu Nidal's group. Bitterlin said that the visit is taking place at the request of the kidnappers. He expects that the two girls will soon be released.

Iranian War Information Chief Arrives

LD291749 Tehran IRNA in English 1735 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] Beirut, Jan. 29, IRNA—Head of the War Information Headquarters (WIH) of Iran Kamal Kharrazi arrived here today at the head of a delegation and was welcomed by Iranian Ambassador to Lebanon Ahmad Dastmalchian and a group of other Iranian officials.

Upon his arrival Kharrazi told reporters that his unofficial visit aims at strengthening historical and religious ties between the two Muslim nations of Iran and Lebanon. "Such visits are obvious in light of the Islamic Republic's all-out support for the world's oppressed masses," he said.

Commenting on the Persian Gulf situation Kharrazi said the U.S. with its unwarranted presence in the region has committed a big mistake. Washington has now realised its mistake and is trying to reduce its forces in the waterway, Kharrazi said.

The Persian Gulf rulers also have found out that U.S. presence in the region will not help them, but will rather exacerbate regional tension, Kharrazi said, adding that these rulers are now trying to correct their position towards Iran particularly now that they are losing by their support for the collapsing Iraqi regime.

While here, Kharrazi is to hold talks with Muslim personalities and Muslim political activists in Lebanon.

Meets Sidon's Sa'd, Comments

NC301505 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] In Sidon today, Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Nasirite Popular Organization, met with Muhsin Ibrahim, secretary general of the Communist Action Organization. During the meeting, they discussed local developments.

Sa'd also received an Iranian delegation led by Kamal Kharrazi, head of the War Information Headquarters, accompanied by Iranian Ambassador to Lebanon Ahmad Dastmalchian. They discussed the situation in Lebanon and the south.

After the meeting, Sa'd said that the links between us and the Islamic revolution in Iran are not new. He stated: We are fully aware of the Zionist plans and schemes to fragment Lebanon as a prelude to bringing about the disintegration of the Arab and Islamic worlds, so that the Zionist state may be the strongest among these mini-states. In the present circumstances, we can benefit from the experience of the Islamic revolution in Iran and stand up to the enemies of the nationalists and Muslims represented by Zionism, imperialism, and reactionaries, he noted. He went on to say: We believe that our battle to expel the Zionist invaders and restore Lebanon's unity will not be easy. It requires further sacrifices, because our battle will be a very long one. Sa'd thanked the Islamic Iranian revolution for helping the Lebanese people to cope with the difficult living conditions imposed by U.S. imperialism and Zionism.

Kharrazi said: We hope that Lebanon will regain its unity and continue to resist occupation. He said that Iran is waging a defensive war against Iraq, and stressed that all international circles are controlled by international arrogance. We have no hope that these circles will help us regain our rights, he stated, adding: We will regain our rights by our own efforts. We hope that we will triumph and that the Iraqi Army will in the future serve the brave resistance against Israel in Lebanon.

Views Schray Kidnapping

NC301721 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Iranian Ambassador to Lebanon Ahmad Dastmalchian, members of the Iranian Embassy staff, and Dr Kamal Kharrazi, head of the War Information Headquarters, visited the Amal Movement command's office in the south today. They were received by 'Atif 'Awn, the official in charge of the movement's organizational department, and members of the command.

Commenting on the visit, Dr Kharrazi said: This trip has enabled us to investigate the conditions of the fighters and the possibility of dealing with their affairs. Touching on the abduction of FRG citizen Ralph Schray, Dr

Kharrazi stated that the Islamic Republic is against kidnappings. It has made and still is making efforts to bring about the release of hostages, he added.

Visits Southern Areas

LD311154 Tehran IRNA in English 1135 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Beirut, Jan. 31, IRNA—Head of Iran's War Information Headquarters Kamal Kharrazi and Iranian Ambassador to Beirut Ahmad Dastmalchian arrived in Sidon, southern Lebanon, Saturday and held talks with member of Assembly of Lebanese Muslim Ulema Shaykh Mahir Mahmud.

At the end of the meeting Kharrazi who also doubles as the managing director of the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), said to reporters that Iran and Lebanon have firm ties. He said that as a result of his short travel to Lebanon he had been convinced that there are grounds for strengthening and improving relations between the Muslim peoples of Iran and Lebanon.

Kharrazi lauded the anti-Zionist uprising of the Palestinians in the occupied territories and said that in their struggle the Palestinians are doubtless inspired by the struggling masses in southern Lebanon.

He said the Iranian delegation is in Lebanon in order to learn more about Muslim mujahidin and explore the ways and means for supporting them in their struggle.

Libyan Embassy To Be Located in Al-Shuf

NC312039 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] According to the AL-SUHUFIYAH NEWS AGENCY, Libya has proposed that the headquarters of the Libyan People's Bureau be located in the village of B'aqlin in Al-Shuf. It should be recalled that Libya decided to restore relations with Lebanon 2 weeks ago.

Fighting Erupts Around Burj al-Barajinah Camp

NC312042 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Fighting involving the use of rockets and machineguns broke out between Palestinians and gunmen deployed around the Burj al-Barajinah camp at 2030 today.

Israeli Gunboats, Warplanes Active in South

NC291812 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] It has been reported from the south that Israeli enemy gunboats were seen today sailing off the southern coast between Al-Awwali and Al-Sarafand.

Enemy warplanes also flew over the area of Sidon and the camps.

Mock Raids Conducted 30 Jan

NC302002 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes and helicopters conducted mock raids on Sidon and Al-Zahrani tonight, dropping illumination flares. The planes drew antiaircraft fire. Israeli planes also flew missions over Kafr Tibnit and Al-Hamra in the south.

Overflights of Sidon, Camps

NC311708 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes conducted reconnaissance sorties over Sidon and the Palestinian camps this afternoon. A state of alert has been declared in the camps.

Further Overflights Noted

NC312021 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew over 'Aramun, Jisr Khaldah, and al-Na'imah at 2000, dropping flares.

Kamal Shatila Reportedly Asked To Form Cabinet

JN301252 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] The Kuwaiti paper AL-QABAS reports that a Lebanese Sunni who resides in Paris has recently received an offer from President Amin al-Jumayyil, conveyed through a special envoy, to form a new government of national reconciliation that will seek to bring about political and economic reforms in Lebanon and supervise presidential elections.

AL-QABAS says the Sunni figure residing in Paris is hesitant about accepting the offer unless it enjoys Syrian support.

In Paris, sources close to Kamal Shatila asserted that he is the figure in question. They declared that Kamal Shatila is continuing his contacts and consultations, and will make his final decision on the offer in light of the facts that will be made available to him.

Birri Discusses Reconciliation, Elections

NC291540 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri has said that the camps war is a thing of the past. Conflicts which have been fomenting for some 13 years, he said, no longer exist. Birri told the Voice of the Mountain that the obstacles to cooperation and coordination among national forces have vanished, citing the camps war as one of these impediments.

We are awaiting the return of Brother Walid Junblatt to assess the national and Islamic situation to chart a new course, Birri remarked. He added: We have to stand together, otherwise history will pass a harsh verdict on us. We should always remember that compulsive hegemony remains the hallmark of Maronite politics.

Responding to a question, Birri said: We insist that political accord should be attained before the presidential elections; in that case, we would not oppose the election of a Christian or Maronite president. But if the Phalangists continue to defend the status quo, they would actually be reinforcing the desire for a Muslim president.

We do not want to obstruct the presidential elections, Birri said, but we insist on having a president who can run the country. I believe Lebanon will be partitioned if national reconciliation is not achieved. I have discussed this with Walid Junblatt in our recent meeting and he was of the same opinion; namely, that reconciliation should precede the election.

Birri added: The Arabization of Lebanon is a plea for reforms in this country. We cannot afford to live in the past. Frankly speaking, there are certain power games taking place in East Beirut with the aim of retaining the presidency and maintaining the status quo.

This country, Birri said, has been ruled by the Maronites since 1943. Some people believe that only the Shi'ites have been deprived and wronged during that time, but I am telling them they are wrong. All the communities in this country have been impoverished by Maronite rule. This is as true in the case of Christian Catholic and Orthodox communities as it is in the case of the Shi'ites, Druze, and Sunnis.

Birri said: When we speak of reconciliation, we are not seeking to replace one form of hegemony with another. We are all equal, and we should all concentrate on liberating the south. We cannot join hands with those who cooperate with the Israelis.

When Birri was asked if there is a chance of mending fences between the government and the opposition, he said: I do not think so, especially since Amin al-Jumayyil and his senior associates have repeatedly proven to be evasive, irresponsible, and unreliable in their dealings.

Junblatt on Syrian-Christian Talks, President

NC300726 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Minister Walid Junblatt has emphasized that the Soviet Union is prepared to reactivate efforts to achieve a reconciliation in Lebanon.

In an exclusive statement to the AL-NAHAR newspaper, Junblatt said that the Syrian-Christian dialogue is necessary and natural. He emphasized that the establishment of an Islamic republic will only result in partition and fragmentation. Answering a question, he said: The Maronite rule has been a failure since 1943. However, I support the election of a Christian president of the Republic—and let him be a Maronite if this is unavoidable, in order to reassure the Maronites and Christians—provided that the Muslims are given political, economic, and social assurances in return.

In conclusion, Junblatt said: Lebanon will never be finished. Ruination and devastation might increase, and despondency might exist, but we must continue to hope.

Amal Movement Announces Operational Title

NC291640 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] The political and organizational bureau of the Amal Movement announced today that all the movement's operations against Israel and the agent Lahd will henceforth be announced under the name of Lebanese Resistance Brigades—Amal. Thus, the movement will not be connected with the name of the faithful resistance, the national resistance, or any other which the movement used in the past for tactical reasons.

The movement pointed out that the resistance operations room in the south is linked to the command of the Amal Movement's southern region and in the Al-Biqa' to the command of the Al-Biqa' region. No order, statement, or position regarding the resistance will be considered valid unless it passes through one of the two commands concerned, it declared.

Group Claims Attacks on Syrians 29 Jan

NC291230 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi unit of the 9 February Organization has claimed responsibility for carrying out two attacks against a center jointly manned by Syrian occupation forces and Arab Democratic Party personnel, and another center jointly manned by the Syrians and Syrian Ba'th Party personnel, in the Al-Qubbah area of Tripoli early today. The two attacks resulted in losses to the Syrians.

Afghanistan

Wakil, UN's Cordovez Discuss Geneva Talks

LD311627 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Talks were held this afternoon at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs between 'Abdul Wakil, foreign minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, and His Excellency Cordovez, the UN under secretary, on a settlement to the situation around Afghanistan and the preparations for the next found of talks in Geneva between the Republic of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

His Excellency Cordovez arrived in Kabul this morning after carrying out a series of talks and consultations with the Pakistani authorities.

Muhammad Faruq Karmand, deputy foreign affairs minister, and [name indistinct], head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs protocol department and head of the UN development program in Kabul, welcomed His Excellency Cordovez and his accompanying delegation at Kabul International Airport.

BAKHTAR Statement on 'Psychological War'

LD291925 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 29 Jan 88

["BIA Statement"]

[Text] It is now clear to everyone that international reaction and imperialism, headed by U.S. imperialism, are conducting not only an undeclared war but an all-out psychological war against Afghanistan. Facts show that along with expanding the scope of the imposed war, the lying Western machinery has also made illegitimate accusations and has increased fabrications against our country's national sovereignty.

Our people see that to the extent the policy of national reconciliation achieves enormous victories, and to the extent the Geneva talks succeed in achieving a peaceful solution to events in Afghanistan, it is to that degree that the feverish and futile efforts of the black Satanic forces in Washington and Islamabad, and a handful of Afghan extremists who enjoy enormous benefits from the continuation of blood and destruction in our country, assume new and broader forms.

For example, the organizers of the psychological war against the people and revolution of Afghanistan have recently spread rumors that multicolored cards, in Dari and Russian, have been distributed among the members of the PDPA, enabling the members of this party to flee the country by using these cards after the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

It is clear that the objective of the organizer of these fabrications and nonsense, is, on the one hand, to raise the defeated morale of the extremist bands and, on the other hand, to create an atmosphere of fear and terror among our people, particularly among PDPA members. Moreover, their purpose is to create a spirit of distrust among our people vis-a-vis national sovereignty, to discredit the traditional Afghan-Soviet friendship, and to spread the spirit of distrust among our people about the future.

To achieve this objective they use every means, including spreading false information, lying, issuing hostile propaganda, spreading rumors, and fabricating documents. The production of this propaganda is an easy and simple task in the laboratories of the destructive Western networks and intelligence organizations.

By spreading such naked lies, the recognized enemies of the Afghan people have tried to hide from the world's view the Afghan character and the revolutionary nature of the PDPA—established as the fighting vanguard of our country's toilers—and portray it in a backward light. However, they are unaware that Afghan mothers have not presented to society sons who flee the battlefield, running from the enemy. A genuine and patriotic Afghan with courage accepts death and would not, like a coward, flee the battlefield. The PDPA has brought such Afghans into its ranks.

The PDPA's 23-year history has undeniably proved that its members, not only during the difficult battles of the pre-April Revolution against reaction and despotism, but also after the revolution during the years of imposed war waged by the biggest imperialist power in the world, have been courageously fighting, boldly martyred, and have even lost their whole families, but have not surrendered to the enemies who oppose progress in the homeland and prosperity for the people.

The existence of dozens of martyrs' cemeteries, in which rest thousands of PDPA members and other heroic patriots of the homeland, are clear evidence that only the lying imperialist fabricators can ignore.

Even a very unwise person can understand that the members of the PDPA, the party of the revolutionary vanguard, is a party which is bravely standing in defense of the homeland's honor; a party which has the backing of 200,000 loyal members and hundreds of thousands of members of the Armed Forces and the majority of the country's people; a party which has been tempered in battles with the internal and foreign enemies; a party which is capable of declaring peace and reconciliation to the hostile forces as a result of its strength and experience and which at the same time is receiving the internationalist military assistance of its friend; a party which wants peace and tranquility not for itself but primarily for the long-suffering and war-hit people; a party whose work and struggle constantly draws energy from the eternal source of the million toiling masses of the country.

How could the members of such a party reject these proud achievements and historical gains, as the enemy demands, and flee the country and allow the necrophagous extremists to destroy our people's lives and property without any obstacles and [words indistinct]?

The policy of compromise and national reconciliation was not declared in order to continue the bloodshed and fratricide of Afghan by Afghan. Its aim is to end the war and bloodshed. One of its great goals is that tens of thousands of armed men who previously opposed this policy, have now chosen the path of peace and compromise.

Of course, there are runaway and chicken-hearted people in any country—even in Afghanistan. If the Western mass media wants to find such people among the Afghans, it is better that they look for them not among the members of the PDPA or other patriotic and noble people of the country, not among the Afghan emigrants who were forced to the leave the country for various reasons, but among the limited groups of the extremists, the bandits who sold their lives and souls to the people's enemies for dollars and rupees and to have U.S. weapons in their hands, to shed the blood of their sisters and brothers in return for receiving money in the service of their imperialist masters.

There is no doubt that the increased possibilities for a political solution to the situation in Afghanistan and the creation of peace and tranquility in the country, has caused deep fear for the future among the leaders of irreconciliable groups. Therefore, they are trying in vain to transfer to U.S., Swiss, and other West European banks the money they have received in exchange for murder and bloodshed and inflicting great suffering on people and plundering the emigrants and people of Afghanistan. This is in addition to the money they receive from Western countries under so-called relief organization financial assistance and from the Western espionage organization's covert and special allocations.

The true patriots of Afghanistan, including the members of the PDPA, who have always been and will be the honest servants of the people and firm defenders of the independence, freedom, and progress of the country do not fear anything. Therefore, they prefer to stay in the homeland rather than flee. They prefer an honorable death to lowness and abjectness in life.

Mujahidin 7-Party Alliance To Set Up Government

BK010744 Hong Kong AFP in English 0734 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 31 (AFP) — Afghan resistance groups have decided to establish their own government which would assume power in Afghanistan before Soviet troops withdraw, a communique released by the resistance alliance said.

The communique, issued by seven rebel parties late Sunday, said that Afghan refugees and Muslims inside Afghanistan would be able to participate in the government which would be set up "as soon as possible."

"The Afghan nation will be taken into confidence by the mujahidin government which would pave the way for the Soviet pull out," it said.

The proposed government would launch a three-pronged policy of creating peace in Afghanistan, arranging the return of Afghan refugees and starting reconstruction and rehabilitation, it added.

The communique, issued as U.N. mediator Diego Cordovez flew into Kabul for talks with Afghan leaders, reaffirmed the resistance resolve not to share power with the ruling Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

"The Afghan mujahidin will never accept any government imposed on them from outside" it warned, saying that such attempts were "fraught with danger of deteriorating the situation in Afghanistan."

"Afghanistan is our problem and only we have the right to resolve it."

A spokesman of the alliance said the executive council of the mujahidin alliance had agreed on its "basic structure" and that mujahidin leaders would soon give it "practical shape." The spokesman stressed that the government would not be in exile but very much inside Afghanistan.

The communique was not clear about the final composition of the government. "If we can liberate 80 per cent of Afghanistan we have the right to establish our own government," it said.

The communique asked Afghans to "immediately contact the nearest mujahidin commanders" and said that guerrilla field commanders had been authorised to issue identitity cards to help people in seeking the alliance's protection.

The mujahidin government would have good relations with all including its neighbours, the communique said. It said that massive rehabilitation in Afghanistan, ruined in the eight year old anti-communist war, could not be undertaken by the mujahidin alone.

Mujahidin Leader Details Khowst Road Offensive

BK300410 Hong Kong AFP in English 0351 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Azam Warsak, Pakistan, Jan 30 (AFP)—Flanked by military advisers wearing battle fatigues and camouflaged turbans, a young mujahidin chief told how his men forced Soviet-Afghan troops to abandon the Gardeyz-Khowst highway.

Muhammad Gaylani, military leader of the Khowst section of the moderate National Islamic Front, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE his forces now controlled 90 kilometres (56 miles) of the strategic 120-kilometre (75-mile) road.

"The Russians withdrew but have taken to pillaging and booby-trapping houses and left many mines in their path," he said at his headquarters in this north-western Pakistan town, less than 100 kilometres (62 miles) from Khowst.

The young son of National Islamic Front chief Mir Sayyed Gaylani added that the mines had taken a heavy toll among mujahidin and civilians in the area.

One of five types of mine used is "a bright red little ball which attracts attention" and is particularly dangerous for children, he said.

Mr. Gaylani explained how his men broke up into three groups to attack five main government strongholds along the road on January 20.

"We took the Soviet-Afghan post of Baraki nearest to Khowst after bombarding it with a BM-12 (rocket-launcher)," Mr. Gaylani said Thursday in his mud-brick fortress here, the black flag of the National Islamic Front flying overhead.

"The Russians began a counter-attack and then pulled back in the middle of the fighting before their ammuniton dumps exploded," he said.

Radio Kabul announced last Sunday that government troops had withdrawn because pro-Soviet local tribes would be able to keep the road secure.

Mr. Gaylani said: "The Soviet-Afghan troops on January 21 evacuated their five main positions on the road—Baraki, Sayyed Kheyl, Vazir, Maranjan and Shoak—covering their retreat with fire from BM-41s, long-range surface-to-surface rocket launchers."

He said the mujahidin had regained control of the road from Daumandau, 10 kilometres (six miles) from Khowst, to the Sataw Kandaw pass, about 20 kilometres (12 miles) from Gardeyz, where fighting continued 3,000 metres (10,000 feet) up in the surrounding snow-covered mountains.

Khowst itself is defended by several thousand Soviet-Afghan troops, including crack Spetsnaz commandos and Red Army paratroopers protected by a powerful artillery, Mr. Gaylani said, adding that Soviet Antonov supply planes were able to land at the town's airport.

The National Islamic Front, the most important mujahidin group in eastern Paktia Province along with the rival moderate Islamic Hezb-e Eslami Khalis, has mobilized 5,000 men in the Khowst region, 3,000 of them fighters, party leaders say.

These reinforcements and the spartan conditions probably forced the Soviets' retreat just four weeks after they took control of the highway, analysts say.

But food and ammuniton supplies have got through to Khowst and the garrison's defences have been reinforced. Asked about the possibility of taking the town, Mr. Gaylani said: "We wouldn't be able to keep it."

He confirmed that at the end of December, during Soviet bombardments of villages, some mujahidin withdrew from combat to take their familes to shelter in Pakistan, leading to the withdrawal of rebel forces from the highway they had held since 1979.

Meanwhile, the commander of the Hezb-e Eslami Khalis, Jalaluddin Haqqani, announced that his men had retaken possession of the Gardeyz-Khowst road, without mentioning the National Islamic Front.

There has been friction between the two rebel groups for several months with both sides often claiming the same victories, observers say.

Mujahidin Attacks Reported in Faryab, Nimruz

BK011132 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that freedom fighters have conducted simultaneous attacks on Meymaneh, the headquarters of Faryab Province, and two other towns. A number of Soviet-Kabul troops were reported killed and injured and three tanks were damaged. And in Nimruz, near Zaranj town, the freedom fighters repulsed an attack of the Soviet Kabul troops.

Bangladesh

Foreign Minister Denies India's Allegation

BK300206 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Bangladesh has categorically denied the Indian allegation that it has been harboring Tripura National Volunteer [TNV] guerrillas. The denial was made by Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury while commenting on a reported statement made by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in Tripura that Bangladesh has failed to take action against the TNV guerrillas operating from its territory.

Mr Chowdhury said we do not train or harbor any guerrillas in Bangladesh nor do we export guerrillas or terrorism to other countries. The foreign minister said

Bangladesh is always ready to cooperate with the Government of India in eliminating guerrilla activities in each other's country and also to combat terrorism in all its forms. He said we have already assured the Government of India at the highest level of our sincere cooperation in this respect.

Ershad Says Polls To Be Held Despite Threats
BK311613 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Excerpt] President Ershad has expressed his conviction that the people of the country will make the coming parliamentary polls successful because they are in favor of the politics of progress and development. He was addressing a public meeting at the Santahar College grounds today. The president made it clear that the elections to Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] will be held on the 3d of March as per the schedule announced by the Election Commission. He described the coming elections as very important for the nation since it would be decided by the people whether they want peace and stability, or they want the politics of terrorism and chaos.

Referring to the threats given by a handful of political parties to disrupt the polls, President Ershad said nothing other than the Almighty Allah has the strength to stop the holding of the elections. In this context, the president mentioned the attempts of these political parties to foil the last parliamentary and presidential polls. He said the people time and again frustrated their conspiracy against their right of franchise and made the elections successful.

The president also addressed the ceremonial parade of Bangladesh National Cadet Corps [BNCC] in Dhaka this morning. He said education for all by the year 2000 is the announced policy of the government, but all national efforts in this regard will fail if we cannot keep academic peace in the educational arena. The president described the students as the future helmsmen of the nation and said they have to be developed as worthy citizens fortified with practical knowledge in a peaceful academic atmosphere. He said the educational system inherited from colonial days fails to meet the requirements of a free nation and, therefore, steps were taken by his government to recast it and give it a new orientation.

President Ershad said the government plans to increase the strength of BNCC to 1 lakh by 1990 from its present number of 15,000. [passage omitted]

'Thousands' Defy Ban on Public Demonstrations
BK310346 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] In Bangladesh, thousands of people marched through the streets [of Dhaka] in silence yesterday to mourn the death of demonstrators killed on last Sunday when police opened fire in the city of Chittagong. The march was taken out in defiance of the government ban. It was followed by a rally organized by the three main opposition alliances. Addressing the gathering, Begum Khaleda Zia urged the candidates to refrain from participating in the election scheduled for the 3d of March. Similar rallies were held in Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, and other places. The liaison committee of the three main opposition alliances has given a call for a new series of strikes demanding

Government Bans Publication of Daily, Weekly
BK310320 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] The government has banned the publication of Bengali daily KHABAR under the Special Powers Act of 1974. According to a statement (?handout) issued in Dhaka last night, the step has been taken following the publication by the paper on Tuesday last [26 January] of a special supplement which inflicted injury to the independence and sovereignty of the country.

The government has also banned publication of the Bengali weekly JOYJATRA for publishing objectionable comments. President Ershad's resignation.

Comoros Foreign Minister Leaves 30 Jan
BK300745 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0700 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Foreign minister of Comoros, Said Kafe, left Dhaka today after a 2-day visit to Bangladesh. He was seen off at the airport by Bangladesh Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury and other high officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During his visit to Bangladesh, the Comoros foreign minister held talks with Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury on matters of mutual interest and reviewed the international situation with special reference to the Middle East, Gulf war, and South Africa.

India

Border Areas in Jammu-Kashmir Closed
BK301608 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, all movements during the night have been banned in the border areas of Jammu and Kathua Districts for a period of 1 week. The district magistrates issued separate notifications to this effect apprehending subversive activities in the areas along the international border.

In Jammu District, the order will apply to 63 villages situated between the anti-tank ditch and the Indo-Pak border daily from 1800 in the evening to 0600 in the morning. In Kathua District, the ban order will be applicable from 2000 to 0600.

Cabinet Discusses Tamil Nadu Governor's Report

BK300830 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] The Union Cabinet is meeting in New Delhi this afternoon to consider the report of the Tamil Nadu governor on the political situation in the state. The report was received last night. This was stated by the prime minister in an informal chat with the newsmen in the forecourt of the Rastrapati Bhawan [president's house] where he had gone to see off the Sri Lankan president at the end of his 6-day visit to India.

Asked whether Tamil Nadu will be placed under the central rule, Mr Gandhi said he did not know what the governor has recommended in his report to the Center.

Replying to a question, Mr Gandhi said that the Congress-I had earlier decided to stay neutral in the trial of strength in the State Assembly and wanted the two factions of the All India Anna DMK to unite. He said his party had to change its attitude toward the Janaki Ramachandran government after reports were received that attempts were made to win over Congress-I MLA's [members of legislative assembly].

President's Rule Imposed 30 Jan

BK301438 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] President's rule has been imposed in Tamil Nadu. A notification to this effect was issued by the president under Section 356 of the Constitution a short while ago.

Earlier, the Union Cabinet at its meeting considered the report of the governor of Tamil Nadu and approved its recommendations that the Tamil Nadu legislative assembly should be dissolved and president's rule imposed since there was a breakdown of constitutional machinery in the state. The report said that a situation has arisen in which it has become impossible to carry on government in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

Government Declares Tripura 'Disturbed Area'

BK291558 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] The whole of Tripura has been declared as disturbed area. An official announcement in New Delhi today says that this has been done as part of the comprehensive security measures to protect the people of the state. The Army has been inducted in the state. It will have powers of arrest, search, and seizure and to conduct operations necessary to deal with the unabated violence.

The press release says the TNV [Tripura National Volunteers] has given a call to disrupt the democratic process of assembly election scheduled for Tuesday next. Earlier, a 15-kilometer belt in the state along the Tripura-Chittagong Hill Tract was declared disturbed. It was hoped that this step will help in checking the incoming and outgoing routes of TNV extremists and facilitate operations by the security forces.

Extremist Violence Continues

BK300328 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] In stepped up violence before the assembly polls next week, TNV extremists have killed 24 persons and injured 16 in a series of raids in Tripura. Seven persons were killed and three injured at (Chogbasta) under Jarania police station, 18 kilometers away from the capital Agartala, last evening. The extremists, armed with automatic weapons, stormed into a cluster of houses under the cover of darkness and opened fire at random. Additional police forces have been rushed to the spot.

In an attack in east Gokulpur village in south Tripura District last night, the extremists gunned down 11 persons and injured 5. The director general of police, Mr R.K. Sharma, told our Agartala correspondent, Bej Barua, this morning that the condition of four of the injured is serious.

The extremists also attacked another village (Thepaichurara) in south Tripura District injuring two persons. During the day yesterday, six persons were killed and an equal number injured in north Machuria village by the extremists. A few houses were also set ablaze.

Tripura, Elections Viewed

BK301244 London BBC World Service in English
1200 GMT 30 Jan 88

[From "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] Next to India, where some 30 people are now known to have died in renewed violence in the North Indian state of Tripura. Recurrings [as heard] took place in four separate attacks within a 24-hour period. The attacks have been blamed on guerrillas belonging to the Tripura National Volunteers. Our correspondent in Delhi, Mark Tully, came on the line just a few minutes ago:

[Begin recording] It has now been learned that tribal insurgents attacked two more villages yesterday. This brings the total number of attacks to 4 and the total number of deaths to 30. The attacks appeared to have been deliberately timed to coincide with the visit of the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, to campaign in the elections for the State Assembly in Tripura due next week. Tribal insurgents known as the Tripura National Volunteers have called for boycott of the polls. A large

number of Bengalis moved into Tripura after [India-Pakistan] partition. Many of them are refugees from the erstwhile East Pakistan. They now heavily outnumber the original tribal population. This is the problem which has led to the insurgency.

On his return from Tripura last night, the prime minister declared the whole state a disturbed area, which gives the security forces sweeping powers and allows the deployment of the Army. The communist chief minister of Tripura, Mr Nripen Chakroberty, has said that the decision to declare the state disturbed amounts to waging war against the people of Tripura. He went on to say this autocratic action will help the hoodlums and miscreants of the prime minister's Congress Party. The chief minister appealed to the people to give a fitting reply in next Tuesday's elections.

The chief ministers of other states not ruled by the Congress, who have been meeting in Delhi, have also criticized the decision to step up the powers of the security forces. The prime minister is reported to have assured that he would in no way interfere with the elections to the Tripura assembly next Tuesday.

Army Deployed in Tripura

BK301602 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] The director general of police, Tripura, Mr R.P-.Sharma, told AIR Agartala correspondent today that Army has been given responsibility for dealing with the TNV extremists throughout the state. He said the Army has started moving in today. Following continued killings by the TNV extremists, the Center had declared the whole of Tripura as disturbed area yesterday. An official release said that an Army major general has been designated as the task force commander to supervise counter-insurgency operations. Yesterday, the TNV extremists killed 29 people in four separate attacks.

The situation was reviewed at a high-level meeting in New Delhi today. It was attended by the home minister, Mr Buta Singh; the minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram; and senior officials of the Ministries of Home and Defense.

The Tripura government has criticized the Center's decision to declare the entire state as a disturbed area. In a statement issued in Agartala today, the chief minister, Mr Nripen Chakroberty, described the step as unilateral and undemocratic. The Tripura unit of the Bhartiya Janata Party has welcomed the action taken by the Union Government. The party president, Mr Brijesh Chakroberty, said in a statement that the situation in the state during the last few days has deteriorated so much that there was no other way left.

Violent Incidents Continue in Punjab State

Police Seal Off Golden Temple

BK301006 Hong Kong AFP in English 0642 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Amritsar, India, Jan 30 (AFP)—Police sealed off the Golden Temple, the holiest Sikh shrine, here Saturday and arrested 15 suspected separatists, witnesses said.

They rounded up about 100 people, but only 15 were detained as the huge temple complex was cordoned off and worshippers prevented from going in, the witnesses said.

The move by about 300 policemen followed reports that on Friday night several Sikhs had waved weapons from within the complex at security forces who always keep watch outside the temple.

Police believe 70-80 separatists still use the shrine to escape arrest. The separatists stay inside the holy of holies called the Harmandir Sahib, which security forces have never penetrated.

Security forces have entered the complex four times since the Indian Army stormed it in June 1984 to flush out separatists who had used it as sanctuary from arrest.

Several hundred separatists and soldiers died in the Army assault which raised a storm of protest from India's 18 million Sikhs and indirectly led to the assassination of Premier Indira Gandhi by two Sikh bodyguards the following October.

Meanwhile, police said about 10 militants shot dead a paramilitary trooper and wounded another during an ambush in the Batala area of the border district of Gurdaspur early Saturday.

In separate incidents a Hindu and a Sikh were shot and killed by suspected Sikh militants in Amritsar District on Saturday, pushing the toll in the separatist campaign this year to 162.

5 Killed in Amritsar Shooting

BK310334 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] In Punjab, five persons were shot dead by terrorists in separate incidents in Amritsar District yesterday. According to the police, the terrorists opened indiscriminate fire on a group of villagers in Vadala Kalan, killing four. In the second incident, one person was shot dead by terrorists in (Ghadiala). The Faridkot District police have arrested eight terrorists during the last 24 hours. A large quantity of arms and ammunition, including some with foreign markings, were recovered from them.

The Punjab governor, Mr S.S. Ray, has invited leaders of all political parties in the state for a detailed discussion to solve the Punjab problem. The governor told our Moga correspondent last night that he will submit a report to the Center after meeting leaders of all political parties separately. He also said that he will make an extensive tour of all districts before next Tuesday.

6 Killed in 'Terrorist' Incidents

BK010705 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] In Punjab, six persons have been killed in separate incidents of terrorist activity since last night. In Amritsar District, two persons were shot dead in Rasulpur last night. One ex-serviceman was gunned down near Jahangir Kalan village. The police have recovered one dead body in Bundala village in the same district.

In Gurdaspur District, a woman and her son were shot dead by terrorists in Bakhtapur. In another incident, one person was seriously injured when terrorists opened fire inside his house. Two police personnel were injured near Lohara village in Amritsar District last night when a patrol party was attacked by terrorists.

Iran

USSR Envoy on NATO Presence, Afghanistan

LD301751 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] The Soviet ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran met today with Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani. During the meeting he praised Iran for its stand regarding Security Council Resolution 598. He stated: Iran's absolute acceptance of this resolution could make its use by the United States, and the need to issue a new resolution, meaningless. He added: Concerning Afghanistan, we have decided on a final solution. Afghanistan's future will be determined today by those who are involved in the talks. Iran's active presence in solving this issue will also solve the problems of hundreds of thousands of Afghans.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: It seems that the ambassador is an active agent in Iran. We feel that your leaders are working with more energy and enthusiasm in your country. What concerns Iran and the USSR requires particular care and discussion. In Iran, the Islamic Revolution cannot be considered a simple, passing revolution. This revolution is without doubt a turning point in the history of the region. I hope that when evaluating our revolution your country's authorities will consider this point. The Islamic Revolution of Iran is determined to reject and oppose the unlawful presence in the region of countries like the United States.

He added: We are not against the relations between regional countries and other countries, but we strongly condemn illegitimate rule and colonialist domination. We expected our anticolonialist policy to be endorsed by anti-imperialist countries, including yours. We have faced numerous problems while pursuing this aim of our revolution. We believe we will accomplish this important task, but we have a long way to go. Our people are prepared to suffer these problems.

The speaker of the Islamic Majlis added: At the beginning, and in a friendly manner, we told you that it would not be in your interest to have a military presence in Afghanistan. We do not have any plans regarding Afghanistan other than being friendly and neighborly. If you are determined to leave Afghanistan, we are prepared to help you leave so that the United States does not dominate Afghanistan after your departure.

With regards to the imposed war, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Iraq began this war and since its beginning we have asked for nothing but justice, and will accept nothing less. No doubt you are aware that the British Foreign Ministry has submitted a report to its parliament. The report states that Iraq began the war, was the first to attack commercial shipping and cities, and was the first to use chemical weapons. Iran has not yet resorted to chemical weapons.

The imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council added: A just position taken by your country can have a great influence on the friendship of the people. These issues need courage and sincerity, and the world's influential leaders should posess such qualities. We have not rejected Resolution 598. What Iran has said is that the order of the clauses should change so that it is acceptable to us. We did this to ensure that justice is done.

We thank you for the position you have adopted with regard to the presence of the United States and other NATO members in the Persian Gulf, but we do not think it is enough. The heavy burden of fighting against the NATO presence in the Persian Gulf should not fall on Iran's shoulders alone. We hope your leaders will seriously approach these important issues. We will of course continue the path we have chosen, be it in the company of others or alone.

Majlis Speaker Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon

LD292212 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1546 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Friday prayers sermon delivered by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran on 29 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted containing Koranic verse] At the beginning of the second sermon, our esteemed public are again urged to observe piety and their religious duties. As to the issues of the day, on the eve of the 10 Days of Dawn—I will briefly mention the blessed 10

days—I will point out the achievements of the revolution and the very, very important "Bayt ol-Moqaddas" operations, as well as the Palestinian issue. [passage omitted]

We have paid dearly for our sacred objectives—so many martyrs from among the best sons of the country, and the difficulties and hardships felt by the people in dealing with shortages which were borne out of the deep struggles. All of these things are only side of the question, while whatever we have gained and whatever we hope to gain by continuing our Jihad, are the other side of the same coin.

The matter can be appraised in two ways. Affluent people who spend their lives in eating, sleeping, sex, and fun or other such things, appraise it in one way, while people with aspirations—those who want to live for a just cause—see it in a different light. My discussion may not be very suitable for those affluent people. They may see it differently. Of course, there may be affluent people who believe in the same aspirations. These people are worthy of mention. That is to say, there may be people who think it important that they should live in comfort but they may also pay attention to the aspirations. They are worthy of attention and perhaps comprise a large part of our society. There is nothing wrong with that. [passage omitted]

Human beings who try to reach just and great aspirations and, for that matter, a healthy and correct world, must make efforts, suffer hardship, be imprisoned, deliver sacrifices, become wounded, injured, invalided, spend money and so on. Some give up their lives. If we continue on this path and persevere then we reach the angels of God. [passage omitted] Our nation has chosen this path and, remarkably, has continued. We see that our nation is more resolute, stronger, and more forthright today and after 10 years of preparing to give up martyrs for its objectives. [cheers from audience]

Persevering along this path the nation has realized that it must tolerate the difficulties and needs no justification but merely a reminder to renew its efforts along the same path. Of course, we have had material gains of remarkable scale; we will try to list the spiritual gains later. If the Pahlavi regime had continued its rule for another 20 years, it would eventually have given away the wealth of the country, and we would have seen the day—not too far into the future, something like 5 years from today according to our calculations—when the country would have had to start importing oil: a nation accustomed to consumerist ways, buying and consuming from the same pocket that would be used to feed future generations and from the same underground resources and suddenly left with nothing at hand to balance its existence.

Our main goal has been an extremely important one: Today we are introducing Islam to the world as a noble and humane movement, an ideology capable of managing the lives of mankind in the most critical of situations. Our enemies have been forced to admit that this reality had existed in earlier history, and that this great treasure had been hidden, that (?enmity), jealousy, arrogance, and aggression had buried this great divine treasure, preventing it from falling into the people's hands. However, once again, this treasure is revealing itself to today's world. This is where our main success lies. [passage omitted]

What is happening in Palestine and Lebanon today? The events in Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt, and many other places are undoubtedly the results of the great and strong movement in our nation, although we are not physically involved in them. They see that their nations are being inspired by Iran. No matter how hard they try, they will not see our agents' involvement there. However, they lie and say that Iran is inciting them.

Still their nations are shouting: We have learned from Iran; Iran is not involved here. Yet they do not accept this. They put them on trial as Iranian agents. This has happened in Tunisia and Morocco; and in Palestine, they say this clearly. In Lebanon, they say the same thing. Tomorrow, they will say it in other countries. It is the ideological presence of the revolution in those places. [passage omitted]

Today the NATO gang in the Persian Gulf is being degraded, and the United States and its satellites and the Western powers in the Persian Gulf are being disgraced today. They have been in the Persian Gulf for months and have not done a damned thing. Today, they are leaving in disgrace and shame. They do not even have the courage to admit defeat. They are leaving the Persian Gulf secretly, like thieves. They leave behind their fearful servants, these Persian Gulf shaykhs. These are the results of the resistance by the great nation of Iran. [chants]

You can not find in history a case where many powerful world nations, the United States, France, the UK, Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands, and in a way the FRG, relieved the Mediterranean fleet so others could come to the Persian Gulf. The economic power of Japan, the political power of the Security Council, the financial muscle of the dim-witted rulers of the Persian Gulf, and the evil and lunatic acts by the Iraqi Ba'thists all concentrated to bring pressure to bear on one nation, to frighten it. They dispatched forces to the shores of that country. You cannot find historical examples of the scale of forces dispatched.

The result was that after some months they secured the opposite of their intentions. Their intention to frighten the hearts of the Muslim and devoted nation backfired. The nation became more resolute and serious in its path. Their resistance increased by a thousand-fold and they made a show of force during the "Karbala'-2" exercises—the same nation that bore no precedents in history. [cheers]

They may not admit it, the world media may not describe the epic, but you and I know better. The kindred spirits of the world realize it. They sought to trumpet their embargo and claim that we do not act on the battlefields. The "Zafar-5" and "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2" operations were only small responses. These operations dismayed them and shattered their hopes and dreams that Iran would not act on the battlefields.

Interestingly, concurrent with our operations, the Americans began to retreat. If they had any trace of political intelligence they should not have done so. They had been saying that they were there to discourage us from attacking Iraq, using our forces behind the fronts. However, our fighters chose the right opportunity. I will try to give more details of the awesome task carried out. The world has completely boycotted the news of the "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2" operations, censuring any mention of it. We ourselves do not see fit to divulge the dimensions of the operations and its impact on important events soon to come. We will tell you of these once the events take place on the fronts. However, I will tell you a little, because not to do so would be a total disregard of the jihad carried out by your dear sons.

The operations were important in one sense because they showed that our nation is capable of shaking off the enemy's intelligence and the many evil eyes of global arrogance. [passage omitted] They all had judged that Iran would begin its operation in the south. They were surprised that night when our youth moved in. Had there been no snowfall and no ice on the roads, had our youth had the stamina for an overnight march, they would have advanced 30 km without any obstacles. If the enemy intelligence elements—many sources from monarchists, monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq], nationalists, and liberals, all of whom are in the service of Iraqi intelligence, and all satellites and eavesdropping apparatus, radio messages and telecommunications—collected any intelligence from the heart of the nation and from the real battlefield, they would convey it to the Iraqis.

A great victory took place, which increased our trust in our fighters and commanders and in our hardware. [cheers] We must praise our fighters. [passage omitted] The operational region was seen by some as not important militarily. If we were to grade the region in terms of importance, undoubtedly in the area north of the central sector, the region would be classed as of primary importance. [passage omitted] Iraq would not refrain from trying to hold on to the region, if it could only do so.

During the days of the operations, the Iraqis tried very hard to recapture these heights. The war room in Baghdad was directing the counteroffensives because of the importance of these heights. They cannot say that the place was not important. They know and the world knows that they are important, and when foreign correspondents go there, they will see it.

Now let us look at the area of operation. If you are not there you really cannot say anything. Whatever I say to you now or whatever they try to show with films in order to show how difficult the operations were, it cannot show a tenth of the problems there. Think of a mountain similar to those in Tehran—the Alborz mountains—covered with snow. Some of the heights are covered by 2-3 meters of snow; the average is 35-40 centimeters of snow. It snows there almost day and night. Just the idea of a person staying a night in the snow in such places makes one shudder. I do not know if you have ever experienced such a problem or not, but the wind in such areas makes one feel the cold. The supply roads are such that even trucks fitted with chains slip on them. These roads are not just like a straight road—the slopes are over 70 or 80 degrees. Traveling on such roads and delivering supplies to the frontlines... [Hashemi-Rafsanjani changes thought] The enemy is sitting warmly in the snow, in their trenches, using machineguns and other weapons for their defense. Our forces have to climb the snow slopes and draw the enemy out. It is an immense task. Preparing for the task is even more difficult than the task itself. How much can a soldier carry in defensive and supply equipment to that area? They have to be supplied. They have had to carry out their operations under such difficult conditions and circumstances.

The fighters were so powerful and forceful that they started their attack on the hill and by the following afternoon they had broken through and were moving forward. They have achieved their preliminary goals. What is the condition of the enemy? I will cite a number of examples to highlight the condition of the Iraqi army: On one of the heights called (Qamish), we crossed water, that is, our children crossed a wild river with equipment, the nature of which we have not announced yet. The vehicles did not cross. There was not even a truck on the other side to carry their equipment. For 6-7 hours they walked through the foothills with their backpacks in the snow until they reached the enemy. For 3 days they responded to enemy counterattacks in the area without having access to any road. The morale of the enemy is seen in those who have been captured. The sole vehicle for transport for our boys were the Iraqi forces. [as heard] They would pick up our wounded and the equipment that had to be brought back behind the front lines. Then they would pick up the ammunition and take it to the frontlines.

They thought about taking a number of mules to the other side for transportation. They tied a rag over the mule's eyes because it refused to cross the bridge. By the time the mule had reached the middle of the bridge the rag had moved and the mule could see the horrendous site and it had a heart attack and fell in the water. These are the conditions under which they crossed the water and captured the height. This highlights the morale of our boys and that of the Iraqis. [passage omitted]

I have to thank a special group in particular for their contribution because very little is said about them during discussions about the war. They played a large part in the

operational victories. These are the drivers. The drivers are truly the embodiment of the financial and human crusade in this and all other operations they participate in when they go to the front lines. [passage omitted]

The point to be noted here is the situation in Iraq. Iraq's internal situation is such that it still denies this series of extensive operations. You can see how unpopular the leaders of a country are, how alienated they are from their people, how afraid they are of their people, when they do not dare tell their people of such an important event. How can one analyze this?

They have lost 130 km of the best strategic land. One thousand of their people were captured. Whatever else they deny, they cannot deny this. One thousand of their people have been captured and we have shown films of them, interviewed them, and everyone has seen this film 1,000 times. Several thousand Iraqis were killed or wounded; Iraqi hospitals are full. They have lost much war equipment, dozens of tanks, personnel carriers, artillery, and so on. They say that nothing has happened, that there was a small clash in a certain sector.

A ruler must be a terrible liar, and so scared and alienated from his people, that he can not tell them of such an important event which threatens his reign. This is a sign of a regime's decadence. This dictator thinks he can hide this matter from his nation. If the Iraqi people do not learn of the matter by other means, then God help them. In the world today, radio signals are received everywhere; one can receive even the weakest radio station in the world. So how can the Iraqi people not hear of this event? Of course they will. If the nation hears about it and its government is not prepared to admit to so many casualties, what kind of government is it? What sort of regime is it?

From this we learn that the Iraqis do not have the strength to withstand too many defeats. Fortunately, our fighters are so well prepared that from now on they will not give Iraq a lot of time for reinforcements or to advance again. Our casualties were extremely low in the operation. It was the cheapest operation. We used less bullets than in any other operation. Our casualties were the lowest. At present, many of the battalions in action there are ready to go into action elsewhere. This readiness exists across the front.

Once again, we state to the UN Security Council, Saddam's protectors, to the Saddamites themselves, to Iraq's enslaved army, and to the shaykhs of the Persian Gulf region: Stop being stubborn and concede the truth. Surrender this aggressor to the court of justice for punishment. Give our Muslim and innocent nation its rights and let the Iraqi nation go free. Let the region be rid of this malignancy, and let us all live in peace. [passage omitted]

Syria's Foreign Minister Arrives in Tehran

Welcomed by Velayati

NC310619 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Mr Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Tehran at the head of a delegation last night and was welcomed by Foreign Minister Mr Velayati and the Syrian ambassador in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Central News Unit reports that during his stay in Tehran he will meet with our country's officials, as well as with President Khamene'i, and will convey Mr Hafiz al-Asad's message to him.

Holds Talks With Velayati

LD311012 Tehran IRNA in English 0955 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 31, IRNA—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' currently visiting Iran met with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Sunday.

Major regional issues and Persian Gulf developments as well as Middle East political issues and specially Palestinian uprising were discussed in the meeting.

The two officials stressed on the need to prevent spreading of tension and maintain the Persian Gulf security in the interest of regional states.

Syrian foreign minister arrived here late Saturday.

Received by Khamene'i

LD311115 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has been received by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i. He conveyed Hafiz al-Asad's warm and friendly greeetings and submitted a special message from the Syrian president to our president. The Syrian foreign minister expressed his pleasure at his trip to Tehran, saying that an increase in the number of such visits demonstrates the depth of strategic relations and strong links between the two progressive and Muslim countries of Iran and Syria.

Thanking him for Hafiz al-Asad's kind message, Mr Khamene'i stressed the good and sincere relations between the two countries. Mr Khamene'i noted the joint understanding of Iran and Syria in supporting the struggle of the Muslim and oppressed people of Palestine and praised the valuable part played by the committed people in their selfless crusade against the regime occupying Jerusalem. Mr Khamene'i asked Faruq al-Shar' to convey his warm greetings to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Mr Velayati and the two countries' ambassadors were also present.

Departs Tehran 31 Jan

LD311129 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruz al-Shar' left Tehran at noon today. He was seen off by Foreign Minister Velayati.

Prior to his departure Mr Al-Shar' said in an interview at the airport: I delivered a message from President al-Asad to Mr Khamene'i. We support the efforts and struggles of the Palestinians in occupied lands. We agreed on the need for efforts to ease tension in the region and for friendly relations between Persian Gulf countries and Iran.

As regards Iraq's trouble-making about Syria's political moves to bring regional countries close to Iran, he said: It is surprising to us that the Iraqi authorities are resorting to such attacks on us, because we are trying to build bridges between the region's people and Iran. We ask Iraq: Is Iraq happy about Arab ships being attacked in the Persian Gulf, and about the security of the region being threatened? Is it right to drag the region and its countries into a war not of their choosing?

Further on Predeparture Remarks

LD311522 Tehran IRNA in English 1454 GMT .31 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 31, IRNA—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' left here for Damascus after a one-day visit and talks with President 'Ali Khamene'i and also his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Prior to his departure, Al-Shar' told IRNA at Mehrabad International Airport that the purpose of his visit to Tehran was to submit President Khamene'i a message from his Syrian counterpart Hafiz al-Asad dealing with the Persian Gulf crisis and other regional developments.

He termed the outcome of his visit "successful" and said Iran and Syria share common outlooks concerning support for the heroic uprising in occupied Palestine, defusing tension in the Persian Gulf and preventing foreign powers from interfering in the region.

Al-Shar', questioned as to the success of Syria in coordinating views of the Persian Gulf Arab States with that of Tehran, replied that in his talks with Iranian officials both sides emphasized on the establishment of friendly relations between Iran and these states.

He said both countries share common views on the importance of supporting political talks between the Islamic Republic and the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (P)GCC.

Recently Syrian officials have made frequent visits to the region because of the enthusiasm of the (P)GCC for creating an atmosphere of understanding between it and the Islamic Republic, Al-Shar' said.

The Syrian foreign minister added that the Islamic Republic has welcomed such efforts aimed at easing regional tension so as to restore security and tranquility to the region without the interference of foreign powers.

He noted that it is completely obvious the Islamic Republic is for elimination of the Persian Gulf crisis, which is also the wish of all regional states.

Faruq al-Shar', referring to the Iraqi regime's bitter attack on the Syrian Government following Damascus' initiative to create an atmosphere of understanding between the Persian Gulf Arab states and Tehran, said that Baghdad's statements has caught him by surprise.

He brushed aside an Iraqi statement describing Syrian mediation efforts as treason against the cause of Arab countries especially the Amman Arab summit approvals. On the contrary, said Al-Shar', the Syrian Government's efforts to bring security and stability to the (P) GCC states and to establish friendly ties between them and the Islamic Republic are exactly in line with the goals of the Arab countries.

He cast doubts over the real aim behind such Iraqi statements and the Baghdad regime's dissatisfaction over the regional shuttlings by Syrian officials. Al-Shar', questioning the Baghdad regime's wisdom on attacking Arab ships in the Persian Gulf, said it is obvious why the Iraqi regime is seeking to threaten the security of the Persian Gulf Arab states.

It is not logical for us to involve the Persian Gulf states in an unwarranted war, said Al-Shar', adding that Syria will never accept that Arab countries involve themselves in a war which they never desire to enter.

Khomeyni Receives Groups of Fighters 30 Jan

LD301115 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] A group of fighters from the 10th Seyyed al-Shohada Division and from the 52d Jerusalem Division and fighters from the Kurdestan and Karaj regions met with Imam Khomeyni, commander in chief of the forces, in two separate sessions today. At the first group's meeting Mr Banifazl presented a report to the imam of the ummah on the activity and the recent victories of the Islamic fighters in northern Iraq, saying: In the offensive in difficult terrain and snowy regions the fighters succeeded in achieving amazing victories.

In the second group's meeting Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Tavassoli conveyed the thanks and commendations of the imam of the ummah to those present.

At the end of both meetings Imam Khomeyni responded to the sentiments of the visitors.

Khomeyni Sees Soldiers' Families, Majlis Member

LD011139 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Excerpts] On the 1 February anniversary of the arrival of his excellency the imam and the start of the 10 Days of Dawn of the Islamic Revolution, families of martyrs, self-sacrificing fighters, missing-in-action, and POW's from Zarand and Baft in Kerman Province; supervisors of the two towns' martyr's foundations, families of martyrs, wounded, missing-in-action, and POW's from Savadkuh in Mazandaran Province, together with the town's representative in the Majlis, met the imam of the ummah at Jamaran this morning. [passage omitted]

The imam of the ummah responded to the cheers from the audience.

Naval Commander Views NATO Gulf Presence

LD311407 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0740 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Interview with Naval Commodore Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan by unidentified correspondent on the "Holy Defense" program; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Greetings on the occasion of the blessed 10 Days of Dawn to you listeners throughout the beloved Islamic country. We are with Commodore Malekzadegan, the commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy. Commodore, if there are any comments you would like to make before I ask the questions I have prepared, please do so.

[Malekzadegan] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I would like to begin by greeting you on the eve of the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution and the arrival of the 10 Days of Dawn. I would also like to greet the entire esteemed and heroic nation, particularly all of our fighters on the fronts of the war of right against wrong. I wish you more success on the eve of 10th anniversary of the victory by the auspicious Islamic Revolution in Iran.

[Correspondent] We are facing a situation where the United States and other NATO members have a military presence in the Persian Gulf. Could you briefly comment on the reasons behind this presence?

[Malekzadegan] The foreign naval presence in the region is tha result of the desperation felt by our mercenary enemy in confronting the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy after suffering annihilation in the first few days of the war. [passage omitted] We later witnessed their direct presence in the Persian Gulf with claims of safeguarding security. Thus, we see a foreign naval presence that we vehemently condemn. We will decisively approach that naval presence and any of its moves to confront our legitimate missions in the Persian Gulf region. We expect them to leave the region as soon as possible so that security will return to the Persian Gulf.

[Correspondent] What do you see as the future for the U.S. and NATO forces in the region?

[Malekzadegan] Their presence, as seen in the past few months, has had no result other than to cause a deterioration of security in the region. A comparison of figures on damaged vessels in the period of military presence by foreign fleets, particularly the United States, with the same figures over the past year shows a 60 percent increase in vessel attacks. Therefore, their arrival has not only not safeguarded security but has heightened insecurity. They have trapped themselves in a quagmire and wonder how they may extricate themselves without losing face. [passage omitted] They are busy with the task of putting an end to their problems here without losing their dignity, which I believe will prove fruitless. According to reports received, they are facing a retreat in that some countries are reducing their forces. However, the United States has maintained its presence with [passage indistinct].

[Correspondent] As the commander of the naval forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, how do you assess our Navy's battle capabilities?

[Malekzadegan] I believe that the Navy has benefited from the most important fruits of the revolution. We should review the Navy's role before the revolution, particularly during the last years. We should also review the situation in the past decade. Every force survives on its logical, personnel, and training provisions. Therefore, if we review these aspects separately in a pre-revolution context and compare them with the period after the revolution, then we see that the Navy has made considerable progress.

You mentioned the Navy's combat readiness. I believe that the continual presence of our fleet—every day we organize more than 30 to 40 naval missions in varying dimensions or airborne missions with helicopter or other aircraft for patrol and reconnaissance flights, and also have many other seaborne facilities—compared with the past shows increasing combat capabilities many times over.

This is not sloganeering; it is the truth that all Navy personnel will confirm. Our servicing and maintenance capabilities have increased hundreds of times over. I thank the technical personnel for their work, and the airborne naval units and our air-sea units for their servicing and maintenance which has increased our preparedness and capabilities. [passage omitted] God willing, our combat capabilities will be many times more effective than at present.

[Correspondent] Since our time is limited, I will not ask further questions. However, if you would like to convey a message to our listeners and fighters in various sectors of the west and the south, please do so.

[Malekzadegan] I, as a humble servant of the Islamic Republic of Iran and our beloved nation, thank all strata for their support of the Armed Forces and the Navy to their utmost possibilities. We cannot do too much for our esteemed and beloved nation. I hope, if I live so long, in the next year [beginning 21 March 88], I can bring you news of final victory from this tribune to the heroic nation and our fighters.

Cargo Ship Afire in Gulf; Crew 'Disappeared'

LD011056 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] According to a REUTER report, a 15,341-ton Panamanian cargo ship caught fire in the Persian Gulf. Its crew has disappeared.

According to this report, the cause of the incident is not yet known.

Shipping sources in the region announced: Yesterday, 3 hours after the missile attack by Iraqi planes, there were no signals from the ship and no signs of life on deck.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Communique No 3,096

LD291709 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 29 Jan 88

["Iranian Warplanes Monitoring Foreign Navigation at Persian Gulf"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Jan 29, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters reconnoitered foreign vessels in Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman Thursday and supported the operations of the naval units, the 3096th Joint Staff Communique said here today.

The communique said Iranian naval units also controlled shipping and reconnoitered two foreign cargo ships in the Strait of Hormuz, but they did not observe any suspicious case.

Artillery fire of the Muslim forces on Iraqi strongholds, supply routes and motorized columns inflicted substantial casualties and losses on the enemy troops. Three Iraqi patrol units which attempted to approach Iranian positions in the northwestern fronts and Nahr 'Anbar region were forced to flee from the region sustaining some casualties.

Iranian anti-aircraft fire repelled Iraqi helicopters from Panjwin, Qasr-e Shirin, Khosravi and Sharhani and Iraqi warplanes from Majnun Islands, Khushk, Faqqeh and Eynkhosh. Iraqi tank fire on Panjwin, Helaleh, Yebis and west of Jofeyr was also silenced.

An Iraqi heavy engineering vehicle was destroyed and a group of enemy troops were killed when their engineering activities west of Jofeyr came under heavy artillery fire of the Muslim combatants.

Gendarmerie forces of the Islamic Republic also inflicted some casualties and losses on the enemy troops in their region of assignment Thursday, the communique concluded.

Communique No 3,097

LD301609 Tehran IRNA in English 1602 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 30, IRNA—Iran's Navy gunboats intercepted and searched five cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Friday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain there was no Iraqi-destined cargo aboard them, said a military communique here today.

The 3097th Joint Staff Communique said that the Islamic Republic Air Force effectively carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman yesterday in support of the Navy.

Exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued throughout the battlefields Friday raging somewhat more heavily in Kushk, southern sector, where a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and parts of enemy fortifications as well as several bunkers were set ablaze.

An Iraqi motorized column moving in Helaleh, western sector, yesterday was shelled by Iranian artillery fire as a result of which an enemy vehicle was destroyed and all its passengers were killed or wounded.

An Iraqi patrol convoy attemping to infiltrate Iranian positions in Mehran, western sector, early Friday was shelled by the Muslim combatants as a result of which an enemy soldier was wounded and captured and the others were forced to flee.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy gun emplacements and bunkers destroyed in parts of the southern and western fronts in artillery duels with Iranian Gendarmerie forces Friday, concluded the communique.